# PCI Express™ Card Electromechanical Specification Revision 1.0a

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# 1. Introduction

This specification is a companion for the *PCI Express Base Specification*. Its primary focus is the implementation of an evolutionary strategy with the current PCI desktop/server mechanical and electrical specifications. The discussions are confined to ATX or ATX-based form factors. Other form factors, such as Mini-PCI Express are covered in other separate specifications.

## 1.1. Terms and Definitions

| | |
|---|---|
| Add-in card | A card that is plugged into a connector and mounted in a chassis slot. |
| ATX | A system board form factor. Refer to the *ATX Specification, Rev. 2.2*. |
| ATX-based form factor | Refers to the form factor that does not exactly conform to the ATX specification, but uses the key features of the ATX, such as the slot spacing, I/O panel definition, etc. |
| Auxiliary signals | Signals not required by the PCI Express architecture but necessary for certain desired functions or system implementation, for example, the SMBus signals. |
| Basic bandwidth | Contains one PCI Express Lane. |
| x1, x4, x8, x16 | x1 refers to one PCI Express Lane of basic bandwidth; x4 to a collection of four PCI Express Lanes; etc. |
| Down-plugging | Plug a larger Link card into a smaller Link connector, for example plugging a x4 card into a x1 connector |
| Down-shifting | Plugging a PCI Express card into a connector that is not fully routed for all of the PCI Express Lanes. For example, plugging an x4 card into an x8 capable connector with only four Lanes being routed. |
| Evolutionary strategy | A strategy to develop the PCI Express connector and card form factors within today's chassis and system board form factor infrastructure constraints. |
| High bandwidth | Supports larger number of PCI Express Lanes, such as a x16 card or connector. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Hot-Plug | Insertion and/or removal of a card into an active backplane or system board as defined in *PCI Standard Hot-Plug Controller and Subsystem Specification, Rev. 1.0*. No special card support is required. |
| Hot swap | Insertion and/or removal of a card into a passive backplane. The card must satisfy specific requirements to support Hot swap. |
| Interoperability | Ability to plug a PCI Express card into different Link connectors and the system works, for example, plugging a x1 PCI Express I/O card into a x16 graphics slot. |
| Link | A collection of one or more PCI Express Lanes |
| Low profile card | An add-in card whose height is no more than 68.90 mm (2.731 inches) |
| microATX | An ATX-based system board form factor. Refer to the *microATX Motherboard Interface Specification*. |
| Mini PCI Express | PCI Express for mobile form factor, similar to Mini PCI. |
| PCI Express Lane | One PCI Express Lane contains two differential lines for Transmitter and two differential lines for Receiver. A by-N Link is composed of N Lanes. |
| sideband signaling | A method for signaling events and conditions using physical signals separate from signals forming the Link between two components. |
| Standard height card | An add-in card whose height is no more than 111.15 mm (4.376 inches) |
| Up-plugging | Plug a smaller Link card into a larger Link connector. For example, plugging a x1 card into a x4 connector |
| wakeup | A mechanism used by a component to request the reapplication of main power when in the L2 Link state. Two such mechanisms are defined in the *PCI Express Base Specification*: Beacon and WAKE#. This specification requires the use of WAKE# on any add-in card or system board that supports wakeup functionality. |

## 1.2. Reference Documents

This specification references the following documents:

- *PCI Express Base Specification, Revision 1.0*
- *PCI Local Bus Specification, Revision 2.3*
- *ATX Specification, Revision 2.2*
- *MicroATX Motherboard Interface Specification, Revision 1.0*
- *SMBus Specification, Revision 2.0*
- *JTAG Specification (IEEE1149.1)*
- *PCI Standard Hot-Plug Controller and Subsystem Specification, Revision 1.0.*
- *Compact PCI Hot Swap Specification*
- *EIA-364-1000.01: Environmental Test Methodology for Assessing the Performance of Electrical Connectors and Sockets Used in Business Office Applications*
- *EIA-364: Electrical Connector/Socket Test Procedures Including Environmental Classifications*

## 1.3. Specification Contents

This specification contains the following information:

- Auxiliary signals
- Add-in card hot insertion and removal
- Power delivery
- Add-in card electrical budget
- Connector specification
- Card form factors and implementation

## 1.4. Objectives

The objectives of this specification are:

- Support 2.5 Gb/s data rate (per direction) with headroom for future bandwidth increases
- Enable Hot-Plug and hot swap where they are needed
- Leverage desktop and server commonality
- Facilitate smooth transitions
- Allow co-existence of both PCI and PCI Express add-in cards
- No chassis or other PC infrastructure changes
- Forward looking for future scalability
- Extensible for future bandwidth needs
- Allows future evolution of PC architecture
- Maximize card interoperability for user flexibility
- Low cost

## 1.5. Electrical Overview

The electrical part of this specification covers auxiliary signals, hot insertion and removal, power delivery, and add-in card interconnect electrical budgets for the evolutionary strategy. The PCI Express Transmitter and Receiver electrical requirements are specified in the *PCI Express Base Specification*.

Besides the signals that are required to transmit/receive data on the PCI Express interface, there are also signals that may be necessary to implement the PCI Express interface in a system environment, or to provide certain desired functions. These signals are referred to as the auxiliary signals. They include:

- Reference clock (REFCLK), must be supplied by the system (see Section 2.1.1)
- Add-in card presence detect pins (PRSNT1# and PRSNT2#), required
- PERST#, required
- JTAG, optional
- SMBus, optional
- Wake (WAKE#), required only if the device/system supports wakeup
- +3.3Vaux, optional

REFCLK, JTAG, SMBus, PERST#, and WAKE# are described in Chapter 2, +3.3Vaux is described in Chapter 4, and PRSNT1# and PRSNT2# are described in Chapter 3.

Both Hot-Plug and hot swap of PCI Express add-in cards are supported, but their implementation is optional. Hot-Plug is supported with the evolutionary add-in card form factor. Hot swap is supported with other form factors and will be described in other specifications.

To support Hot-Plug, presence detect pins (PRSNT1# and PRSNT2#) are defined in each end of the connectors and add-in cards. Those presence detect pins are staggered on the add-in cards such that they are last-mate and first-break, detecting the presence of the add-in cards. Chapter 3 discusses the detailed implementation of PCI Express Hot-Plug.

Chapter 4 specifies the PCI Express add-in card electrical requirements, which include power delivery and interconnect electrical budgets. Power is delivered to the PCI Express add-in cards via add-in card connectors, using three voltage rails: +3.3V, +3.3Vaux, and +12V. Note that the +3.3Vaux voltage rail is not required for all platforms (refer to Section 4.1 for more information on the required usage of 3.3Vaux). The maximum add-in card power definitions are based on the card size and Link widths, and are described in Section 4.2. Chapter 4 describes the interconnect electrical budgets, focusing on the add-in card loss and jitter requirements.

## 1.6. Mechanical Overview

PCI Express can be used in many different applications in desktop, mobile, server, as well as networking and communication equipment. Consequently, multiple variations of form factors and connectors will exist to suit the unique needs of these different applications.

Figure 1-1 shows an example of the vertical edge-card PCI Express connector to be used in ATX or ATX-based systems. There will be a family of such connectors, containing one to 16 PCI Express Lanes. The basic bandwidth (BW) version supports one PCI Express Lane and could be used as the replacement for the PCI connector. The high bandwidth version will support 16 PCI Express Lanes and will be used for applications that require higher bandwidth, such as graphics.

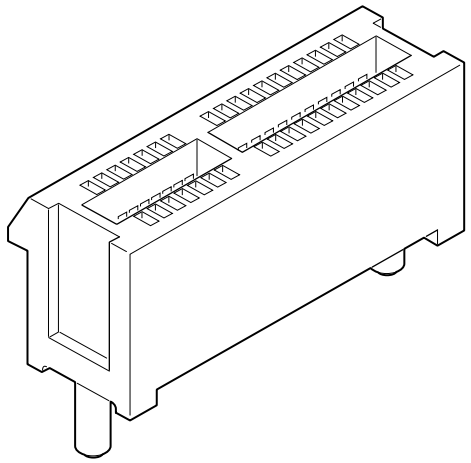



**Figure 1-1: Vertical Edge-Card Connector**

Vertical edge card connectors also have applications in the server market segment. Figure 1-2 shows an example of a server configuration using a PCI Express riser card.

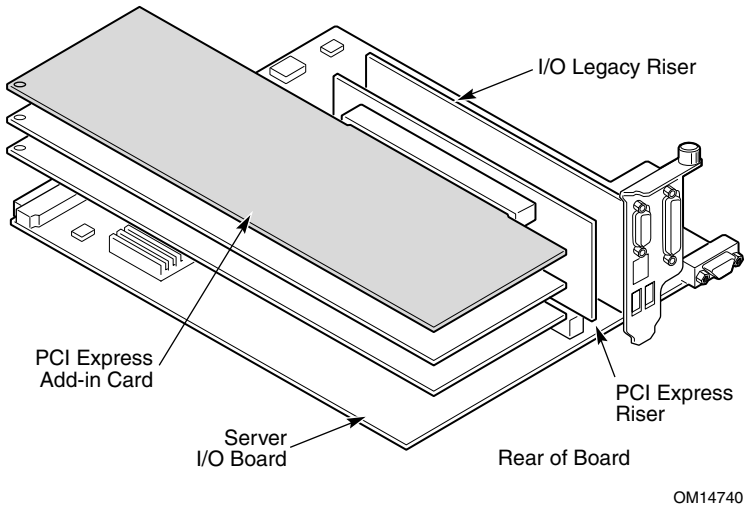



**Figure 1-2: Example of a Server I/O Board with PCI Express Slots on a Riser**

Mobile applications require a right angle edge card connector. The definition of such a connector will be covered in a separate document.

For certain server and network applications there may also be a need for a Compact PCI-like PCI Express connector, or other backplane-type PCI Express connectors.

PCI Express cable connectors may also be needed for within-system applications, both internally (inside the chassis) and externally (outside the chassis).

While the reality of multiple variations of PCI Express connectors and form factors is recognized, no attempt will be made to define every possible PCI Express connector and form factor variation in this specification. They will be defined later as the need arises in other specifications. This specification, instead, focuses on the vertical edge card PCI Express connectors and form factor requirements by covering the following:

- Connector mating interfaces and footprints
- Electrical, mechanical, and reliability requirements of the connectors, including the connector testing procedures
- Add-in card form factors
- Connector and add-in card locations, as well as keep-outs on a typical desktop system board (ATX/microATX form factor)

Connector definitions and requirements are addressed in Chapter 5 and add-in card form factors and implementation are discussed in Chapter 6.

2

# 2. Auxiliary Signals

The auxiliary signals are provided on the connector to assist with certain system level functionality or implementation. These signals are not required by the PCI Express architecture. The high-speed signal voltage levels are compatible with advanced silicon processes. The optional low speed signals are defined to use the +3.3V or +3.3Vaux supplies, as they are the lowest common voltage available. Most ASIC processes have high voltage (thick gate oxide) I/O transistors compatible with 3.3 V. Use of the 3.3 V supply allows PCI Express signaling to be used with existing control bus structures, avoiding a buffered set of signals and bridges between the buses.

The PCI Express connector and add-in card interfaces support the following auxiliary signals:

- REFCLK-/REFCLK+ (required): low voltage differential signals.
- PERST# (required): indicates when the applied main power is within the specified tolerance and stable. PERST# goes inactive after a delay of $T_{PVPERL}$ time from the power rails achieving specified tolerance on power up.
- WAKE#: an open-drain, active low signal that is driven low by a PCI Express function to re-activate the PCI Express Link hierarchy's main power rails and reference clocks. It is required on any add-in card or system board that supports wakeup functionality compliant with this specification.
- SMBCLK (optional): the SMBus interface clock signal. It is an open-drain signal.
- SMBDAT (optional): the SMBus interface address/data signal. It is an open-drain signal.
- JTAG (TRST#, TCLK, TDI, TDO, and TMS) (optional): the pins to support *IEEE Standard 1149.1*, *Test Access Port and Boundary Scan Architecture* (JTAG). They are included as an optional interface for PCI Express devices. IEEE Standard 1149.1 specifies the rules and permissions for designing an 1149.1-compliant IC.
- PRSNT1# (required): Add-in card presence detect pin. See Chapter 3 for a detailed description.
- PRSNT2# (required): Add-in card presence detect pin. See Chapter 3 for a detailed description.

Note that the SMBus interface pins are collectively optional for both the add-in card and the system board. If the optional management features are implemented, SMBCLK and SMBDAT are both required. Similarly, the JTAG pins are collectively optional. If this test mode is implemented, all the JTAG pins are required. Refer to the *PCI Local Bus Specification, Rev. 2.3*, Section 4.3.3 for additional system requirements related to these signals.

# 2.1. Reference Clock

## 2.1.1. Low Voltage Swing, Differential Clocks

To reduce jitter and allow for future silicon fabrication process changes, low voltage swing, differential clocks are being used, as illustrated in Figure 2-1. The nominal single-ended swing for each clock is 0 to 0.7 V and a nominal frequency of 100 MHz ±300 PPM. The clock has a defined crossover voltage range and monotonic edges through the input threshold regions as specified in Section 4.

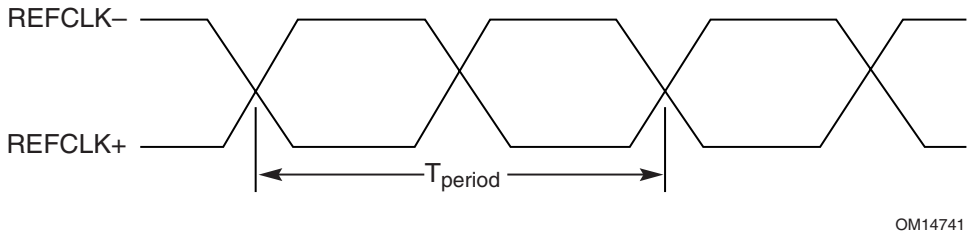



**Figure 2-1: Differential REFCLK Waveform**

The reference clock pair is routed point-to-point to each connector from the system board. The phase relationships of the clocks to the connectors are not specified. The clocks must be routed according to best-known clock routing rules. The routing of each signal in any given clock pair between the clock source and the connector must be well matched in length (< 0.005 inch) and appropriately spaced away from other non-clock signals to avoid excessive crosstalk.

The add-in card is not required to use the reference clock on the connector. However, the add-in card is required to maintain the 600-ppm data rate matching specified in Section 4.3.1.1 of the *PCI Express Base Specification*.

Any terminations required by the clock are to be on the system board. EMI emissions will be reduced if clocks to open sockets are shut down at the clock source. The method for detecting the presence of a card in a slot and controlling the clock gating is platform specific and is not covered in this specification.

## 2.1.2. Spread Spectrum Clocking (SSC)

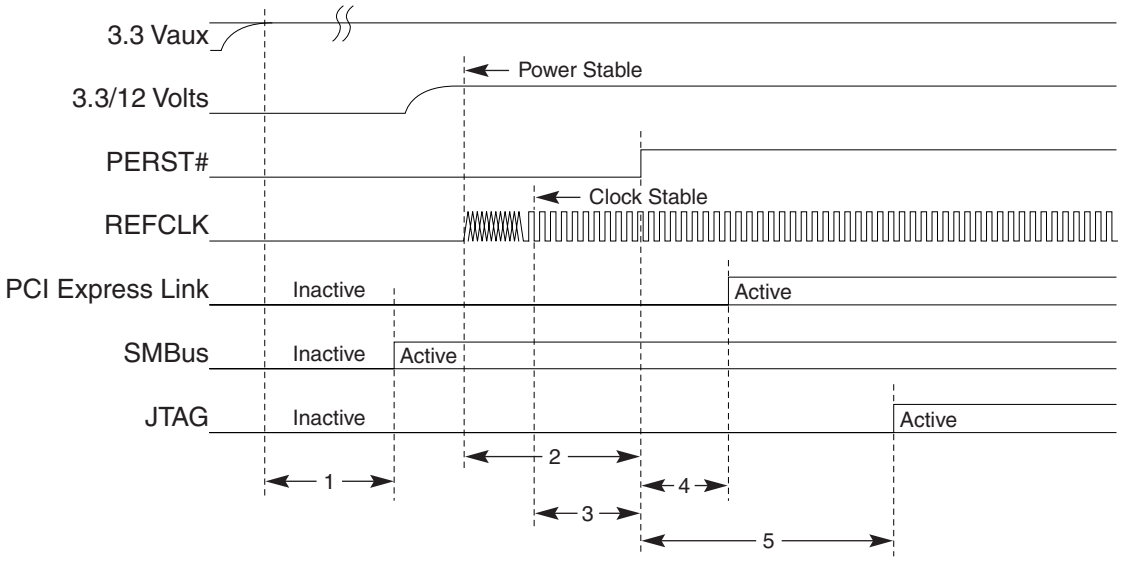
The reference clocks may support spread spectrum clocking. Any given system design may or may not use this feature due to platform-level timing issues. The minimum clock period cannot be violated. The preferred method is to adjust the spread technique to not allow for modulation above the nominal frequency. This technique is often called "down-spreading." The requirements for spread spectrum modulation rate and magnitude are given in the *PCI Express Base Specification, Revision 1.0*.

## 2.2. PERST# Signal

The PERST# signal is used to indicate when the power supply is within its specified voltage tolerance and is stable. It also initializes a component's state machines and other logic once power supplies stabilize. On power up, the deassertion of PERST# is delayed 100 ms ($T_{PVPERL}$) from the power rails achieving specified operating limits. Also, within this time, the reference clocks (REFCLK+, REFCLK-) also become stable, at least $T_{PERST-CLK}$ before PERST# is deasserted. PERST# is asserted in advance of the power being switched off in a power-managed state like S3. PERST# is asserted when the power supply is powered down, but without the advanced warning of the transition.

### 2.2.1. Initial Power-Up (G3 to L0)

As long as PERST# is active, all PCI Express functions are held in reset. The main supplies ramp up to their specified levels (3.3 V and 12 V). Some time during this stabilization time, the REFCLK starts and stabilizes. After there has been time ($T_{PVPERL}$) for the power and clock to become stable, PERST# is deasserted high and the PCI Express functions can start up.



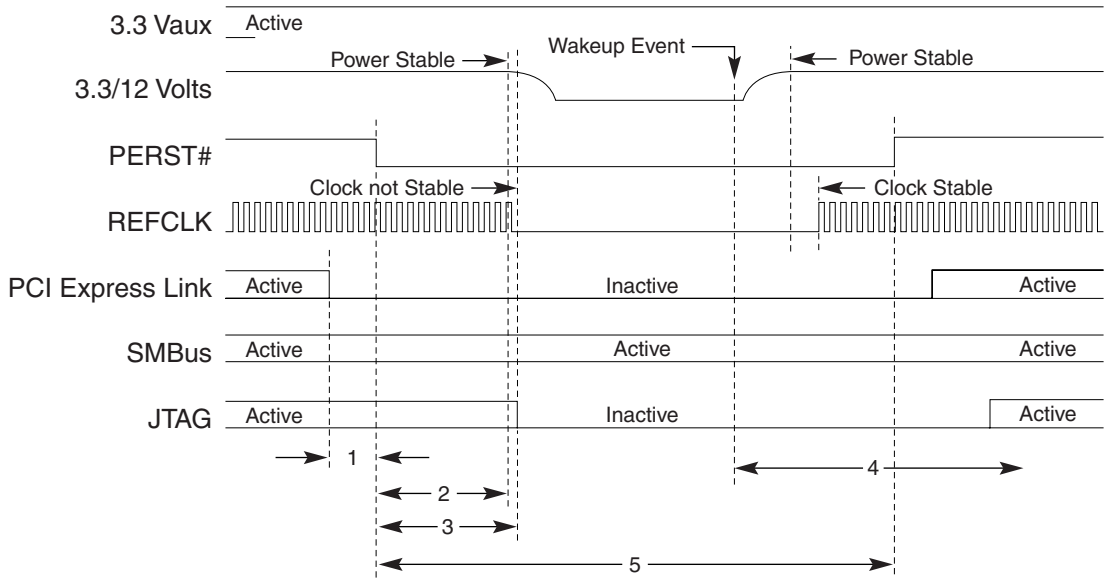

1. 3.3Vaux stable to SMBus driven (optional). If no 3.3Vaux on platform, the delay is from +3.3V stable
2. Minimum time from power rails within specified tolerance to PERST# inactive ($T_{PVPERL}$)
3. Minimum clock valid to PERST# inactive ($T_{PERST-CLK}$)
4. Minimum PERST# inactive to PCI Express link out of electrical idle
5. Minimum PERST# inactive to JTAG driven (optional)

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**Figure 2-2: Power Up**

## 2.2.2. Power Management States (S0 to S3/S4 to S0)

If the system wants to enter S3/S4, devices are placed into $D3_{hot}$ states with Links in L2 prior to any power transitions at the slot. The main power and reference clock supplied to the PCI Express slot will go inactive and stay inactive until a wakeup event. As a result of the removal of main power, devices enter the $D3_{cold}$ state. During the $D3_{cold}$ state, +3.3Vaux remains at 3.3 V. On the wakeup event, the power manager restores the main power and reference clocks. As in the last section, PERST# deasserts $T_{PVPERL}$ after the clocks and power are stable.



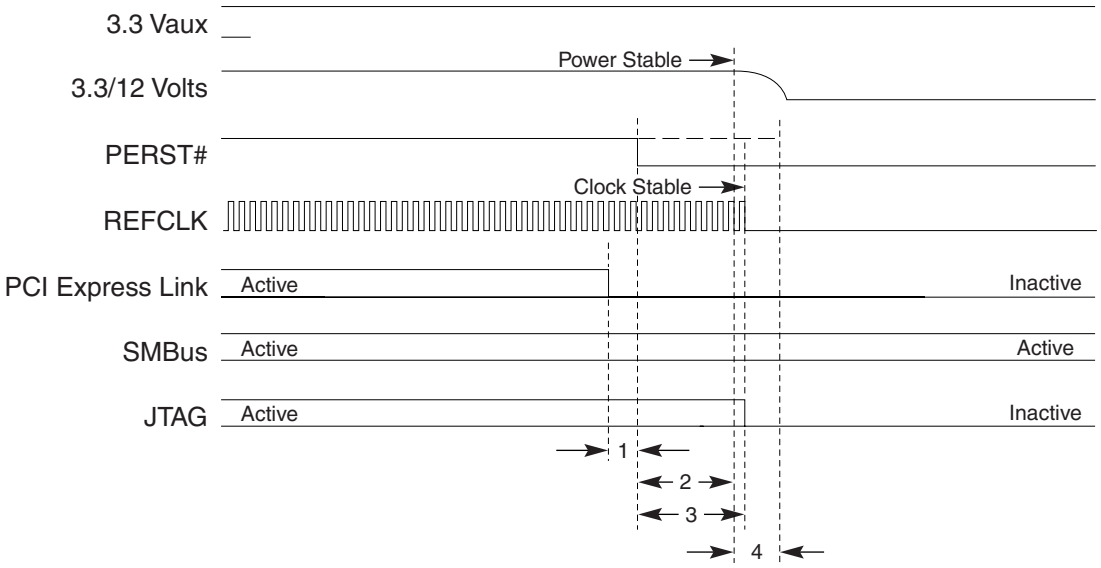

1. The PCI Express link will be put into electrical idle prior to PERST# going active.
2. PERST# goes active before the power on the connector is removed.
3. Clock and JTAG go inactive after PERST# goes active.
4. A wakeup event resumes the power to the connector, restarts the clock, and the sequence proceeds as in power up.
5. The minimum active time for PERST# is $T_{PERST}$.

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**Figure 2-3: Power Management States**

## 2.2.3. Power Down

As soon as the supplies are out of their specified tolerance range, PERST# is dasserted. +3.3Vaux may remain valid for system sleep and off states even if the device is not enabled for wakeup events.




1. The PCI Express link will be put into an inactive state (Device in $D3_{hot}$) prior to PERST# going active, except in the case of a surprise power down.
2. PERST# goes active before the power on the connector is removed.
3. Clock and JTAG go inactive after PERST# goes active.
4. In the case of a surprise power down, PERST# goes active $T_{FAIL}$ after power is no longer stable.

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**Figure 2-4: Power Down**

# 2.3. WAKE# Signal

The WAKE# signal is an open drain, active low signal that is driven low by a PCI Express component to reactivate the PCI Express slot's main power rails and reference clocks. Only add-in cards that support the wake process connect to this pin. If the add-in card has wakeup capabilities, it must support the WAKE# function. Likewise, only systems that support the wakeup function need to connect to this pin, but if they do, they must fully support the WAKE# function. Such systems are not required to support Beacon as a wakeup mechanism, but are encouraged to support it. If the wakeup process is used, the +3.3Vaux supply must be present and used for this function. The assertion and de-assertion of WAKE# are asynchronous to any system clock. (See Chapter 5 of the *PCI Express Base Specification* for more details on PCI-compatible power management.)

If the WAKE# signal is supported by a slot, the signal is connected to the platform's power management (PM) controller. WAKE# may be bused to all PCI Express add-in card connectors, forming a single input connection at the PM controller or individual connectors can have individual connections to the PM controller. Hot-Plug requires that WAKE# be isolated between connectors and driven inactive during the Hot-Plug/Hot Removal events. Refer to Section 5.1 for the connector pin assignment for the WAKE# signal.

Auxiliary power (+3.3Vaux) must be used by the asserting and receiving ends of WAKE# in order to revive the hierarchy. The system vendor must also provide a pull-up on WAKE# with its bias voltage reference being supplied by the auxiliary power source in support of Link reactivation. Note that the voltage that the system board uses to terminate the WAKE# signal can be lower than the auxiliary supply voltage to be compatible with lower voltage processes of the system PM controller. However, all potential drivers of the WAKE# signal must be 3.3 V tolerant.

Note: WAKE# is not PME# and should not be attached to the PCI-PME# interrupt signals. WAKE# causes power to be restored but must not directly cause an interrupt.

WAKE# has additional electrical requirements over and above standard open drain signals that allow it to be shared between devices that are powered off and those that are powered on using auxiliary power for example. The additional requirements include careful circuit design to ensure that a voltage applied to the WAKE# signal network never causes damage to a component even if that particular component's power is not applied.

Additionally, the device must ensure that it does not pull WAKE# low unless WAKE# is being intentionally asserted in all cases, including when the related function is in $D3_{cold}$.

This means that any component implementing WAKE# must be designed such that:

- Unpowered WAKE# output circuits are not damaged if a voltage is applied to them from other powered "wire-ORed" sources of WAKE#.
- When power is removed from its WAKE# generation logic, the unpowered output does *not* present a low impedance path to ground or any other voltage.

These additional requirements ensure that the WAKE# signal network continues to function properly when a mixture of auxiliary powered, and unpowered components have their WAKE# outputs wire-ORed together. It is important to note that most commonly available open drain, and tri-state buffer circuit designs used "as is" do not satisfy the additional circuit design requirements for WAKE#.

Other requirements on the system board/add-in card designer include:

- Common ground plane reference between slots/components attached to the same WAKE# signal.
- Split voltage power planes (+3.3Vaux vs. +3.3V) are required if +3.3Vaux is supplied to the connector(s).
- If +3.3Vaux is supplied to one PCI Express connector in a chassis, it must be supplied to all PCI Express connectors in that chassis.
- If WAKE# is supported on one PCI Express connector in a chassis, it must be supported on all PCI Express connectors in that chassis.
- If the system does not support +3.3Vaux or the wakeup function, the +3.3Vaux connector pin is left open on the system board. See the *PCI Bus Power Management Interface Specification, Rev. 1.1* for +3.3Vaux power requirements.
- +3.3Vaux voltage supply may be present even if the device is not enabled for wakeup events.
- +3.3V at the PCI Express connector may be switched off by the system.
- Add-in cards are permitted to generate the Beacon wakeup mechanism in addition to using the WAKE# mechanism, although the system is not required to provide support for Beacon.

  Note: If the add-in card uses the Beacon mechanism in addition to the WAKE# mechanism, the Beacon may be ignored by the system. Circuits that support the wake function and are intended to work in any PCI Express system must be designed to generate the Beacon on their PCI Express data lines.

PCI Express add-in card designers must be aware of the special requirements that constrain WAKE# and ensure that their add-in cards do not interfere with the proper operation of the WAKE# network. The WAKE# input into the system may de-assert as late as 100 ns after the WAKE# output from the function de-asserts (i.e., the WAKE# pin must be considered indeterminate for a number of cycles after it has been de-asserted).

The value of the pull-up resistor for WAKE# on the system board must be derived taking into account the total possible capacitance on WAKE# to ensure that WAKE# charges up to a logic high voltage level in no more than 100 ns. (See Section 4.3.3 of the *PCI Local Bus Specification* for information on pull-up resistors.)

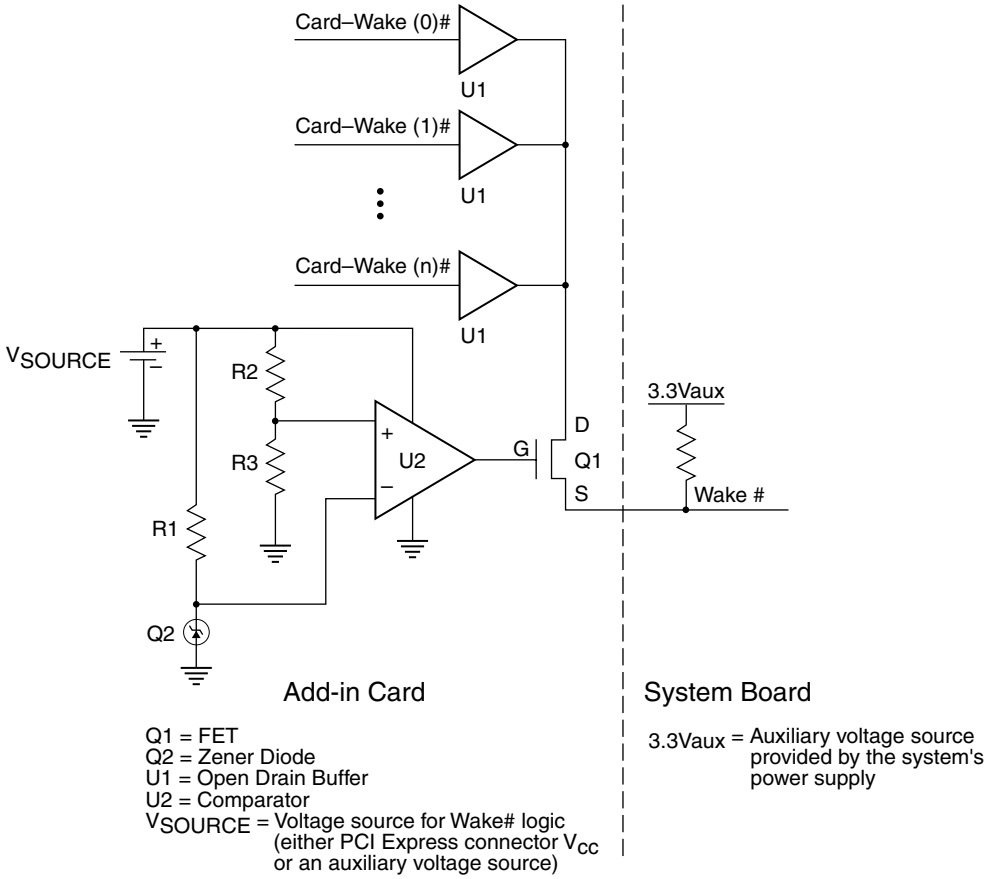
# IMPLEMENTATION NOTE

## Example WAKE# Circuit Design

The following diagram is an example of how the WAKE# generation logic could be implemented. In this example, multiple PCI Express functions have their WAKE# signals ganged together and connected to the single WAKE# pin on the PCI Express add-in card connector.

The circuit driving the gate of transistor Q1 is designed to isolate the add-in card's WAKE# network from that of the system board whenever its power source ($V_{SOURCE}$) is absent.

If the card supplies power to its WAKE# logic with the PCI Express connector's 3.3 V supply (i.e., it does not support wakeup from $D3_{cold}$), then all WAKE# sources from the card will be isolated from the system board when the add-in card's +3.3V rail is switched off. Add-in cards that support wakeup from $D3_{cold}$ have an auxiliary power source (+3.3Vaux) to power the WAKE# logic which maintains connection of these WAKE# sources to the system board's WAKE# signal network even when the Link hierarchy's power (+3.3V) has been switched off.




This example assumes that all sources of WAKE# on the add-in card are powered by either the +3.3V or +3.3Vaux ($V_{SOURCE}$). If WAKE# from $D3_{cold}$ is supported by some, but not all of the add-

in card's functions that generate WAKE#, the add-in card designer must ensure that there is separate isolation control for each of the WAKE# generation power sources.

PCI Express component designers could choose to integrate the "power fail detect" isolation circuitry with their WAKE# output pin physically corresponding to the source of FET Q1. Alternatively, all isolation control logic could be implemented externally on the add-in card.

This example is meant as a conceptual aid, and is not intended to prescribe an actual implementation.

---

# 2.4. SMBus (Optional)

The optional System Management Bus (SMBus) is a two-wire interface through which various system component chips can communicate with each other and with the rest of the system. It is based on the principles of operation of $I^2C$.

SMBus provides a control bus for system and power management related tasks. A system may use SMBus to pass messages to and from devices instead of tripping individual control lines. Removing the individual control lines reduces pin count. Accepting messages ensures future expandability.

With SMBus, a device can provide manufacturer information, tell the system what its model/part number is, save its state for a suspend event, report different types of errors, accept control parameters, and return its status.

SMBus is described in *System Management Bus (SMBus) Specification, Version 2.0*. Refer to this specification for DC characteristics and all AC timings. If the system board or add-in card supports SMBus, it must adhere to additional requirements that may be found in Chapter 8 of the *PCI Local Bus Specification, Rev. 2.3*.

The system board provides pull-ups to the +3.3Vaux rail per the above specification and the components attached to these signals need to have a 3.3 V signaling tolerance.

## 2.4.1. Capacitive Load of High-power SMBus Lines

Capacitive load for each bus line includes all pin, wire, and connector capacitances. The maximum capacitive load affects the selection of the pull-up resistor or the current source in order to meet the rise time specifications of SMBus.

Normally, pin capacitance is defined as the total capacitive load of one SMBus device as seen in a typical manufacturer's data sheet. The value in the DC specifications ($C_{OUT}$ in Table 2-1) is a recommended guideline so that two SMBus devices may, for example, be populated on an add-in card.

### 2.4.2. Minimum Current Sinking Requirements for SMBus Devices

While SMBus devices used in low-power segments have practically no minimum current sinking requirements due to the low pull-up current specified for low-power segments, devices in high-power segments are required to sink a minimum current of 4 mA while maintaining the $V_{OL}$(max) of 0.4 V. The requirement for 4 mA sink current determines the minimum value of the pull-up resistor $R_P$ that can be used in SMBus systems.

### 2.4.3. SMBus "Back Powering" Considerations

Unpowered devices connected to either a low-power or high-power SMBus segment must provide, either within the device or through the interface circuitry, protection against "back powering" the SMBus. Unpowered devices connected to high-power segments must meet leakage specifications in Section 3.1.2.1 of the *System Management Bus (SMBus) Specification, Version 2.0*.

### 2.4.4. Power-on Reset

SMBus devices detect a power-on event in one of three ways:

- By detecting that power is being applied to the device
- By PERST# being asserted
- For self-powered or always powered devices, by detecting that the SMBus is active (clock and data lines have gone high after being low for more than 2.5 s)

An SMBus device must respond to a power-on event by bringing the device into an operational state within $t_{POR}$, defined in Table 1 of the *System Management Bus (SMBus) Specification*, *Version 2.0*, after the device has been supplied power that is within the device's normal operating range. Self-powered or always-powered devices, such as Smart Batteries, are not required to do a complete power-on reset but they must be in an operational state within 500 ms after the SMBus becomes active.

# 2.5. JTAG Pins (Optional)

The *IEEE Standard 1149.1, Test Access Port and Boundary Scan Architecture*, is included as an optional interface for PCI Express devices. *IEEE Standard 1149.1* specifies the rules and permissions for designing an 1149.1-compliant interface. Inclusion of a Test Access Port (TAP) on an add-in card allows boundary scan to be used for testing of the card on which it is installed. The TAP is comprised of four pins (optionally five) that are used to interface serially with a TAP controller within the PCI Express device.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TCK | in | *Test Clock* is used to clock state information and test data into and out of the device during operation of the TAP. |
| TDI | in | *Test Data Input* is used to serially shift test data and test instructions into the device during TAP operation. |
| TDO | out | *Test Output* is used to serially shift test data and test instructions out of the device during TAP operation. |
| TMS | in | *Test Mode Select* is used to control the state of the TAP controller in the device. |
| TRST# | in | *Test Reset* provides an asynchronous initialization of the TAP controller. This signal is optional in *IEEE Standard 1149.1*. |

These TAP pins operate at 3.3V, the same as the other single-ended I/O signals of the PCI Express connector. The drive strength of the TDO pin is not required to be the same as other PCI Express pins. The add-in card vendor must specify TDO drive strength.

The system vendor is responsible for the design and operation of the 1149.1 serial chains ("rings") required in the system. The signals are supplementary to the PCI Express interface. Additional information can be found in the *PCI Local Bus Specification, Rev. 2.3*, Section 2.2.9.

# 2.6. Auxiliary Signal Parametric Specifications

## 2.6.1. DC Specifications

**Table 2-1: Auxiliary Signal DC Specifications - PERST#, WAKE#, and SMBus**

| Symbol | Parameter | Conditions | Min | Max | Unit | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $V_{IL1}$ | Input Low Voltage | | -0.5 | 0.8 | V | 2 |
| $V_{IH1}$ | Input High Voltage | | 2.0 | $V_{cc3_3}$ + 0.5 | V | 2 |
| $V_{IL2}$ | Input Low Voltage | | -0.5 | 0.8 | V | 4 |
| $V_{IH2}$ | Input High Voltage | | 2.1 | $V_{ccSus3_3}$ + 0.5 | V | 4 |
| $V_{OL1}$ | Output Low Voltage | 4.0 mA | | 0.2 | V | 1, 3 |
| $V_{HMAX}$ | Max High Voltage | | | $V_{cc3_3}$ + 0.5 | V | 3 |
| $V_{OL2}$ | Output Low Voltage | 4.0 mA | | 0.4 | V | 1, 4 |
| $I_{in}$ | Input Leakage Current | 0 to 3.3 V | -10 | +10 | µA | 2 |
| $I_{lkg}$ | Output Leakage Current | 0 to 3.3 V | -50 | +50 | µA | 3, 4, 5 |
| $C_{in}$ | Input Pin Capacitance | | | 7 | pF | 2 |
| $C_{out}$ | Output (I/O) Pin Capacitance | | | 30 | pF | 3,4 |

Notes:

1. Open-drain output a pull-up is required on the system board. There is no $V_{OH}$ specification for these signals. The number given is the maximum voltage that can be applied to this pin.
2. Applies to PERST#.
3. Applies to WAKE#.
4. Applies to SMBus signals SMBDATA and SMBCLK.
5. Leakage at the pin when the output is not active (high impedance).

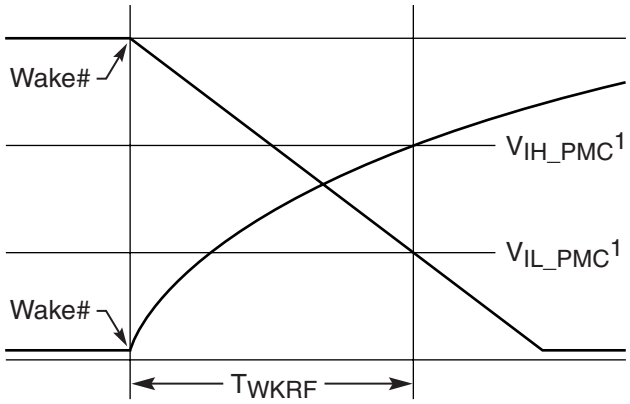
## 2.6.2. AC Specifications

**Table 2-2: Power Sequencing and Reset Signal Timings**

| Symbol | Parameter | Min | Max | Units | Notes | Figure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $T_{PVPERL}$ | Power stable to PERST# inactive | 100 | | ms | 1 | Figure 2-2 |
| $T_{PERST-CLK}$ | REFCLK stable before PERST# inactive | 100 | | µs | 2 | Figure 2-2 |
| $T_{PERST}$ | PERST# active time | 100 | | µs | | Figure 2-3 |
| $T_{FAIL}$ | Power level invalid to PWRGD inactive | | 500 | ns | 3 | Figure 2-4 |
| $T_{WKRF}$ | WAKE# rise – fall time | | 100 | ns | 4 | Figure 2-5 |

Notes:

1. Any supplied power is stable when it meets the requirements specified for that power supply.
2. A supplied reference clock is stable when it meets the requirements specified for the reference clock. The PERST# signal is asserted and de-asserted asynchronously with respect to the supplied reference clock.
3. The PERST# signal must be asserted within $T_{FAIL}$ of any supplied power going out of specification.
4. Measured from WAKE# assertion/de-assertion to valid input level at the system PM controller. Since WAKE# is an open-drain signal, the rise time is dependent on the total capacitance on the platform and the system board pull-up resistor. It is the responsibility of the system designer to meet the rise time specification.




Note 1: Power Management Controller input switching levels are platform dependent and are not set by this specification.

A-0338

**Figure 2-5: WAKE# Rise and Fall Time Measurement Points**

## 2.6.3. REFCLK Specifications

**Table 2-3: DIFF 0.7 V AC Timing Requirements (Zero Delay Mode)**

| Symbol | Parameter | 100 MHz Input | | Unit | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Min | Max | | |
| $T_{absmin}$ | Absolute min. DIF CLK Period | 9.872 | | ns | 4 |
| $T_{rise}$ | Rise Time | 175 | 700 | ps | 1, 2, 6 |
| $T_{fall}$ | Fall Time | 175 | 700 | ps | 1, 2, 6 |
| $h\Delta T_{rise}$ | Rise Time Variation | | 125 | ps | |
| $\Delta T_{fall}$ | Fall Time Variation | | 125 | ps | |
| Rise/Fall Matching | | | 20% | | |
| $V_{high}$ | Voltage High (typ 0.71 V) | 660 | 850 | mV | 7, 8 |
| $V_{low}$ | Voltage Low (typ 0.0 V) | -150 | | mV | 7, 9 |
| $V_{cross\ absolute}$ | Absolute crossing point voltages | 250 | 550 | mV | 1, 3, 7, 13 |
| $V_{cross\ relative}$ | Relative crossing point voltages | Calc | Calc | | 5, 12 |
| Total $\Delta V_{cross}$ | Total Variation of $V_{cross}$ over all edges | | 140 | mV | 13 |
| $T_{ccjitter}$ | Cycle to Cycle jitter | | 125 | ps | |
| Duty Cycle | | 45 | 55 | % | |
| $V_{ovs}$ | Maximum voltage (Overshoot) | | VH + 0.3 V | | 7, 10 |
| $V_{uds}$ | Minimum voltage (Undershoot) | | - 0.3 | | 7, 11 |
| $V_{rb}$ | Ringback Voltage | 0.2 | N/A | V | 7 |

Notes:

1. Measured at crossing point where the instantaneous voltage value of the rising edge of REFCLK equals the falling edge of REFCLK#
2. Measured from $V_{ol}$ = 0.175 V to $V_{oh}$ = 0.525. Only valid for rising REFCLK and falling REFCLK#. The signal must be monotonic through the $V_{ol}$ to $V_{oh}$ region for $T_{rise}$ and $T_{fall}$
3. This measurement refers to the total variation from the lowest crossing point to the highest, regardless of which edge is crossing.
4. The average period over any 1 μs period of time must be greater than the minimum specified period.
5. $V_{cross}$(rel) Min and Max are derived using the following, $V_{cross}$(rel) Min = 0.5 ($V_{havg}$ – 0.710) + .250, $V_{cross}$(rel) Max = 0.5 ($V_{havg}$ – 0.710) + .550 (see Figure 2-8 for further clarification).
6. Measurement taken from single ended waveform.
7. Measurement taken from differential waveform.

8. $V_{high}$ is defined as the statistical average High value as obtained by using the Oscilloscope $V_{high}$ Math function.
9. $V_{low}$ is defined as the statistical average Low value as obtained by using the Oscilloscope $V_{low}$ Math function.
10. Overshoot is defined as the absolute value of the maximum voltage.
11. Undershoot is defined as the absolute value of the minimum voltage.
12. The crossing point must meet the absolute and relative crossing point specifications simultaneously.
13. $\Delta V_{cross}$ is defined as the total variation of all crossing voltages of Rising REFCLK and Falling REFCLK#. This is the maximum allowed variance in $V_{cross}$ for any particular system.
14. Refer to Section 4.3.2.1 of the *PCI Express Base Specification* for information regarding PPM considerations.

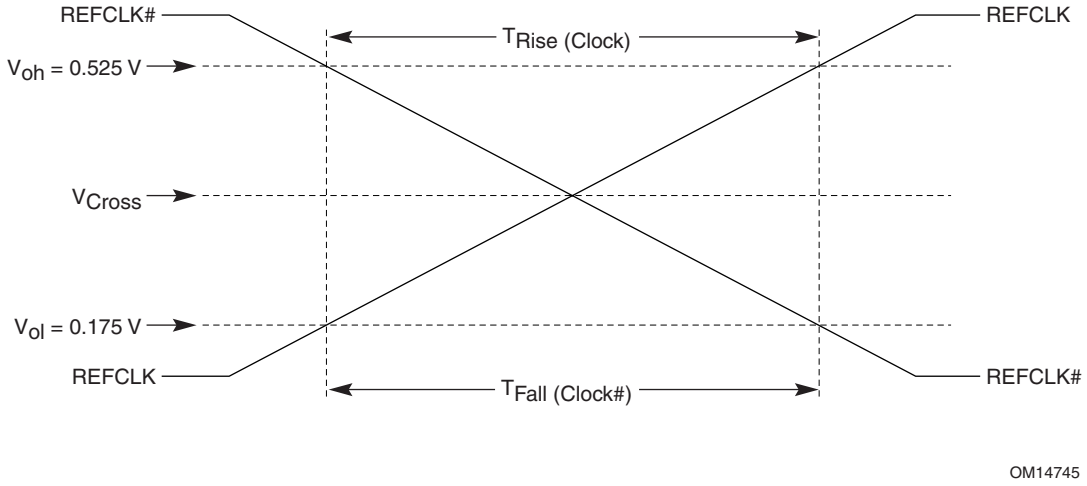



**Figure 2-6: Single Ended Measurement Points for $T_{rise}$ and $T_{fall}$**

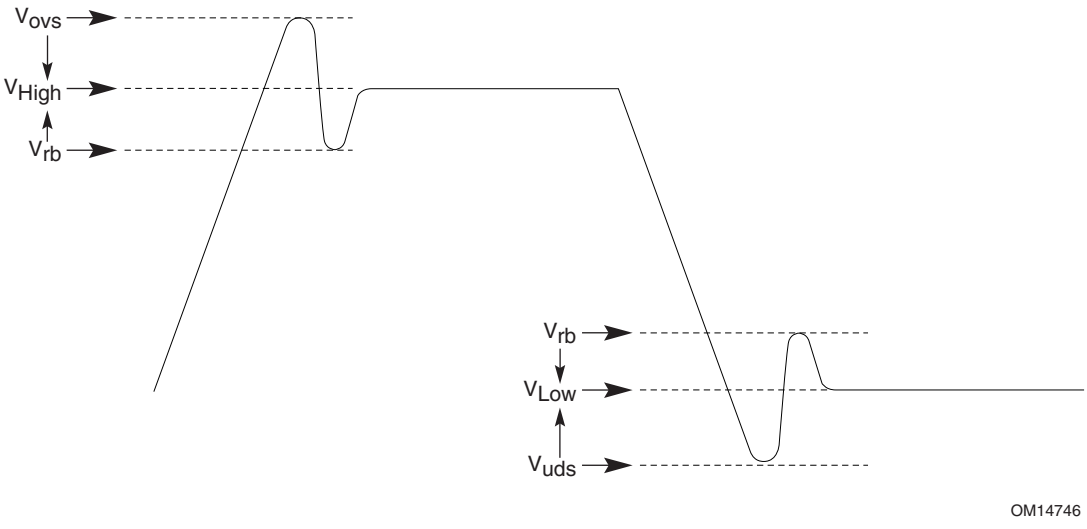



**Figure 2-7: Single Ended Measurement Points for $V_{ovs}$, $V_{uds}$, and $V_{rb}$**

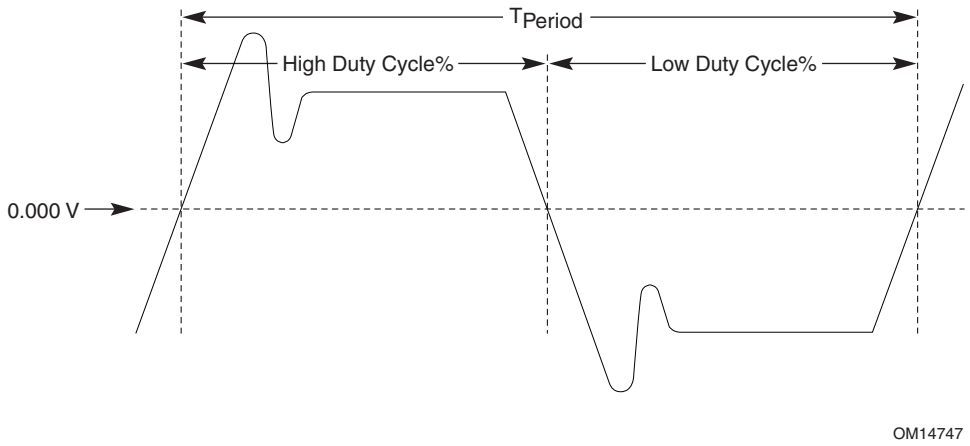



**Figure 2-8: Differential (Clock – Clock#) Measurement Points ($T_{period}$, Duty Cycle, and Jitter)**

Figure 2-9 illustrates the effect of $V_{high}$ above and below 0.71 V on the $V_{cross}$ range. The purpose of this is to prevent a 250 mV $V_{cross}$ with an 850 mV $V_{high}$. This also prevents the case of a 550 mV $V_{cross}$ with a 660 mV $V_{high}$. The actual specification for $V_{cross}$ is dependent upon the measured amplitude of $V_{high}$.

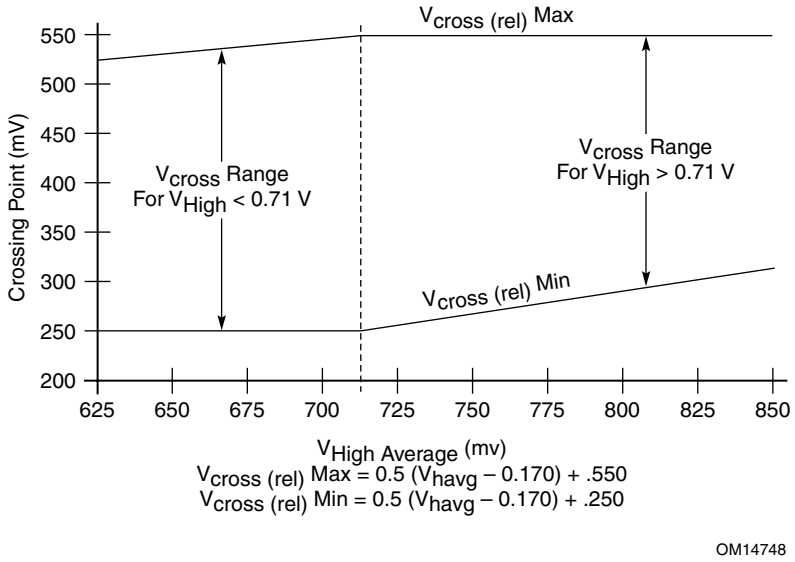



**Figure 2-9: $V_{cross}$ Range Clarification**

# 3

# 3. Hot Insertion and Removal

In the following text, all references to mechanical elements should be interpreted in the context of the PCI Express card form factor definition, unless otherwise stated.

## 3.1. Scope

The PCI Express specification natively supports Hot-Plug/Hot Removal of PCI Express add-in cards. Since the PCI Express evolutionary form factor is designed as a direct PCI connector replacement and utilizes an edge card connector, the PCI Express Native Hot-Plug model is based on the standard usage model defined in the *PCI Standard Hot-Plug Controller and Subsystem Specification, Rev 1.0*.

The following section describes the add-in card presence detect and PCI Express Native Hot-Plug signals. For a detailed explanation of the register requirements and standard usage model, see Chapter 7 of the *PCI Express Base Specification*.

## 3.2. Presence Detect

The PCI Express Hot-Plug controller detects the presence of an add-in card using the PRSNT2# signal as shown in Figure 3-1. It is the responsibility of the Root Complex or the switch to determine the presence of the add-in card and set the present bits in the appropriate register as described in Chapter 7 of the *PCI Express Base Specification*. In addition to the Hot-Plug controller, the PRSNT2# signal is used by the system board to recognize the presence of the add-in card in order to enable the auxiliary signals: CLK, PERST#, SMBus, and JTAG. The two signals, PRSNT1# and PRSNT2#, described in Figure 3-1, are required on the PCI Express connector and must be supported by all PCI Express add-in cards.

Figure 3-1 shows the presence detection mechanism. Both of these pins are required in order to detect the presence of the add-in card and to ensure that it is fully inserted in the connector. Note that the pads on the add-in card for the PRSNT1# and PRSNT2# signals are shorter than the rest of the pads in order to have about 1 ms difference of insertion time. This scheme is used to allow the power switches to isolate the power to the card during surprise removal. The mechanical details are provided in Chapter 5.

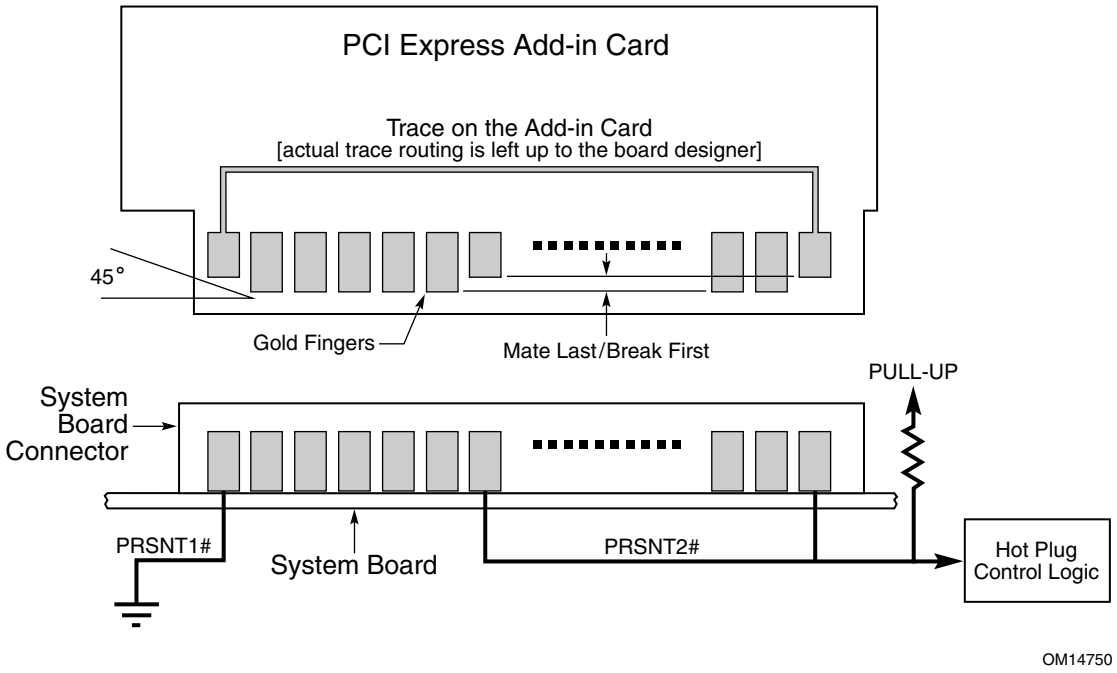



**Figure 3-1: Presence Detect in a Hot-Plug Environment**

This implementation requires that all PCI Express add-in cards implement variable length edge finger pads and tie the PRSNT1# and PRSNT2# signals together on the add-in card. There is more than one PRSNT2# pin defined in the x4, x8, and x16 PCI Express connectors to support up-plugging. The system board connects PRSNT1# to GND as shown in Figure 3-1. The system board also connects all the PRSNT2# pins together to a single pull-up resistor. The system board designer determines the pull-up voltage. All add-in cards shall connect the PRSNT1# signal to the farthest-apart PRSNT2# signal with a single trace in between them as illustrated in Figure 3-1. For example, a x4 add-in card would connect PRSNT1# with PRSNT2# on pin B31, and a x8 add-in card would connect PRSNT1# with PRSNT2# on pin B48. Refer to Table 5-1 for connector pin numbering and definition.

Since the x8 add-in card may plug into a x8 connector with a x4 Link only, the system board shall have the two PRSNT2# pins (B31 and B48) connected together. This is required in order to sense the presence of the x8 add-in card in a x8 connector that supports a x4 Link only. See Section 6.3 for card interoperability discussions.

4

# 4. Add-in Card Electrical Requirements

Power delivery requirements defined in this chapter apply not only to add-in cards, but also to connectors and systems.

## 4.1. Power Supply Requirements

All PCI Express add-in card connectors require two power rails: +12V and +3.3V, with a third, optional 3.3Vaux rail. Systems that provide PCI Express add-in card connectors are required to provide both the +12V and +3.3V rails to every PCI Express add-in card connector in the system. The 3.3Vaux rail may be supplied to the PCI Express add-in card connectors at the system board designers' discretion. However, if a system board designer does supply 3.3Vaux to the PCI Express add-in card connector, the 3.3Vaux rail must be supplied to all PCI Express add-in card connectors. In addition, as described in Chapter 2, if the platform with the PCI Express interface supports the WAKE# signal, the 3.3Vaux rail (as well as the WAKE# signal) must be supplied to all PCI Express add-in card connectors.

Table 4-1 provides the required specifications for the power supply rails available at the PCI Express connectors, based on the number of PCI Express lanes supported by the connectors. The system designer is responsible for ensuring that the power delivered to the PCI Express connectors meets the specifications called out in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1: Power Supply Rail Requirements**

| Power Rail | x1 Connector | x4/x8 Connector | x16 Connector |
|---|---|---|---|
| **+3.3V** | | | |
| Voltage tolerance | ± 9% (max) | ± 9% (max) | ± 9% (max) |
| Supply Current | 3.0 A (max) | 3.0 A (max) | 3.0 A (max) |
| Capacitive Load | 1000 µF (max) | 1000 µF (max) | 1000 µF (max) |
| **+12V** | | | |
| Voltage tolerance | ± 8% | ± 8% | ± 8% |
| Supply Current | 0.5 A | 2.1 A (max) | 4.4 A (max) |
| Capacitive Load | 300 µF (max) | 1000 µF (max) | 2000 µF (max) |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **+3.3Vaux** | | | |
| Voltage tolerance | ± 9% (max) | ± 9% (max) | ± 9% (max) |
| Supply Current | | | |
| Wakeup Enabled | 375 mA (max) | 375 mA (max) | 375 mA (max) |
| Non-wakeup Enabled | 20 mA (max) | 20 mA (max) | 20 mA (max) |
| Capacitive Load | 150 μF (max) | 150 μF (max) | 150 μF (max) |

Notes:

1. The maximum current slew rate for each add-in card shall be no more than 0.1 A/μs.
2. Each add-in card shall limit its bulk capacitance on each power rail to less than the values shown in Table 4-1.
3. System boards that support Hot-Plug add-in cards shall limit the voltage slew rate so that the inrush current to the card shall not exceed the specified maximum current. This is calculated by the equation dV/dt = I/C; where:
   I = maximum allowed current (A)
   C = maximum allowed bulk capacitance (F)
   dV/dt = maximum allowed voltage slew rate (V/s)

# 4.2. Power Consumption

This specification provides various sizes of cards for system implementation. Each card size provides support for a certain number of PCI Express lanes, and a corresponding difference in specified power consumption as shown in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2: Add-in Card Power Dissipation**

| | X1 | | x4/x8 | x16 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Standard height | 10 W[1] (max) | 25 W[1] (max) | 25 W (max) | 25 W[2] (max) | 60 W[4] (max) |
| Low profile card[3] | 10 W (max) | | 10 W (max) | 25 W (max) | |

Notes:

1. A standard height x1 add-in card intended for desktop applications is limited in length to a half-length add-in card and 10 W maximum power dissipation. A standard height x1 add-in card intended for server I/O applications with 25 W maximum power dissipation must be greater than or equal to 177.80 mm (7.0 inches) in length, but must not exceed a full-length add-in card. See Table 6-1 for add-in card size definitions. The same server I/O add-in card must, at initial power-up, not exceed 10 W of power dissipation, until configured as a high power device, at which time it must not exceed 25 W of power dissipation. Refer to Chapter 6 of the *PCI Express Base Specification* for information on the power configuration mechanism.
2. A standard height x16 add-in card intended for server I/O applications must limit its power dissipation to 25 W. A standard height x16 add-in card intended for graphics applications must, at initial power-up, not exceed 25 W of power dissipation, until configured as a high power device, at which time it must not exceed 60 W of power dissipation. Refer to Chapter 6 of the *PCI Express Base Specification* for information on the power configuration mechanism.
3. All low profile add-in cards are limited in length to a half-length add-in card and must not exceed the power dissipation values shown in Table 4-2.
4. A x16 graphics card is limited to 60 W. The 60 W maximum can be drawn via the combination of +12V and +3.3V rails, but each rail draw is limited as defined in Table 4-1, and the sum of the draw on the two rails cannot exceed 60 W.

The power limits for respective connector widths, x1, x4/x8, and x16, represent the add-in card and system capacity to provide cooling for the slot. The 10 W limit assumes natural convection cooling in a system that provides air exchanges. The 25 W and above add-in card power limits assume that sufficient cooling is provided to the slot by the cards in the present chassis environment.

PCI Express allows for higher maximum power for graphics cards than AGP. In case such a graphics card is used in a system, implementers should pay special attention to system level thermal, acoustic, structure, and power delivery requirements.

## 4.3. Power Supply Sequencing

There is no specific requirement for power supply sequencing of each of the three power supply rails. They may come up or go down in any order. The system, however, must assert the PERST# signal whenever any of the three power rails goes outside of the specifications provided in Table 4-1 (refer to Section 2.2 for specific information on the function and proper use of the PERST# signal).

Note: If a PCI Express add-in card requires power supply rail sequencing, it is the responsibility of the add-in card designer to provide appropriate circuitry on the add-in card to meet any power supply rail sequencing requirements.

## 4.4. Power Supply Decoupling

Due to the low level signaling of the PCI Express interface, it is strongly recommended that sufficient decoupling of all power supplies be provided. This is recommended to ensure that power supply noise does not interfere with the recovery of data from a remote upstream PCI Express device. Some basic guidelines to help ensure a quiet power supply are provided below.

Note: The following are guidelines only. It is the responsibility of the add-in card designer to properly test the design to ensure that add-in card circuitry does not create excessive noise on power supply or ground signals at the add-in card edge fingers.

- The add-in card device decouple value should average 0.01 µF per device $V_{cc}$ pin (for all devices on the add-in card).
- The trace length between a decoupling capacitor and the power supply or ground via should be less then 0.2 inches (5.08 mm) and be a minimum of 0.02 inches (0.508 mm) in width.
- A bulk decoupling capacitor (greater than 10 µF) is recommended at the add-in card edge finger for each power supply.
- A bulk decoupling capacitor (greater than 10 µF) is recommended on each power supply used within a device on the add-in card. This bulk decoupling capacitor should be in close proximity to the add-in card device.

# 4.5. Electrical Topologies and Link Definitions

The remainder of this chapter describes the electrical characteristics of PCI Express add-in cards. The electrical characteristic at the card interface is defined in terms of electrical budgets. This budget allocation decouples the electrical specification for the system designer and the card vendor and ensures successful communication between the PCI Express signal input and output Links at the system board and add-in card interface. Unless otherwise noted, the specifications contained herein apply to all high-speed signals of each interface width definition. The signaling rate for encoded data is 2.5 G transfers/s and the signaling is point-to-point.

## 4.5.1. Topologies

There are three different electrical topologies for PCI Express:

- PCI Express devices on the same system board
- PCI Express devices across one connector on a system with a system board and an add-in card
- PCI Express devices across two connectors on a system with a system board, a riser card, and an add-in card

The "PCI Express on-board" configuration is used for two-PCI Express devices on a common PCB (see Figure 4-1). Since there are no add-in cards involved in this topology, refer to the *PCI Express Base Specification* for implementation of this topology.

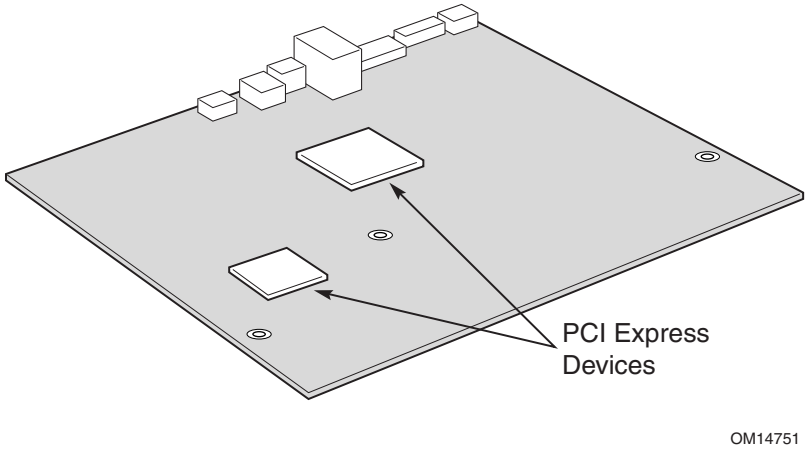



**Figure 4-1: PCI Express on the System Board**

The topology of "PCI Express with one connector" allows a plug-in PCI Express add-in card similar to a standard PCI or AGP add-in card to interface with a system board using a PCI Express vertical edge connector (Figure 4-2). In this topology, only one connector-card interface exists.

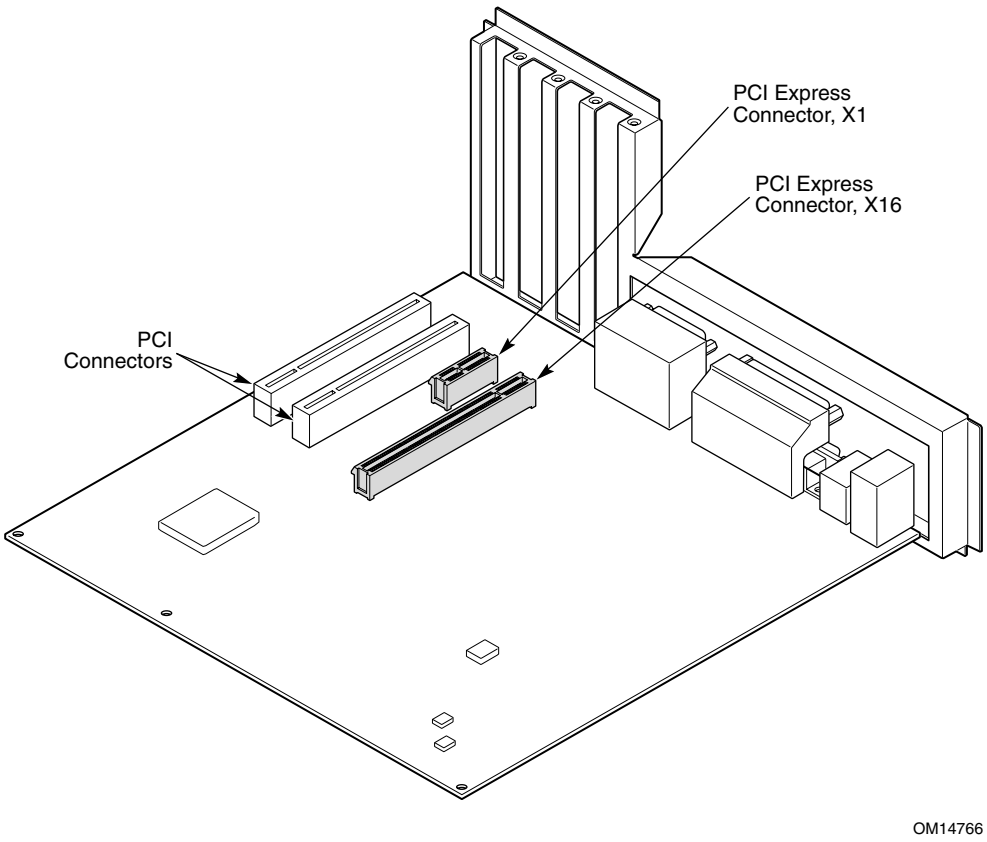



**Figure 4-2: PCI Express Connector on System Board with an Add-in Card**

The topology of "PCI Express with two connectors on a riser card" allows for a plug-in PCI Express add-in card similar to a standard PCI or AGP add-in card to interface with a riser card using a PCI Express connector (Figure 4-3). The riser card plugs to the system board using another riser connector (either PCI Express or other connector). In this topology, two connector-card interfaces exist.

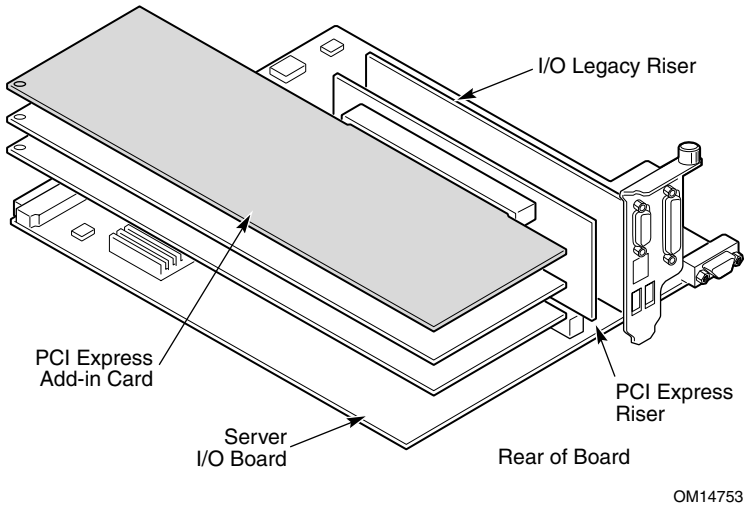



**Figure 4-3: PCI Express Connector on a Riser Card with an Add-in Card**

## 4.5.2. Link Definition

Typical PCI Express Links consist of the following:

- Transmitters/Receivers on an ASIC on a system board
- Package fan-in-out trace topologies
- PCB coupled microstrip and/or striplines
- Vias for layer changes
- Optional proprietary PCI Express connector and riser card interface
- Optional riser card with microstrip and/or stripline trace
- PCI Express connector and add-in card interface
- Coupled microstrip line and/or stripline traces on add-in card
- AC-coupling capacitors
- Transmitter/Receivers on an ASIC on the add-in card

The electrical parameters for the Link are subdivided into two components (Figure 4-4):

- Add-in card
- System board and PCI Express connector (and riser card with associated connector if it exists)

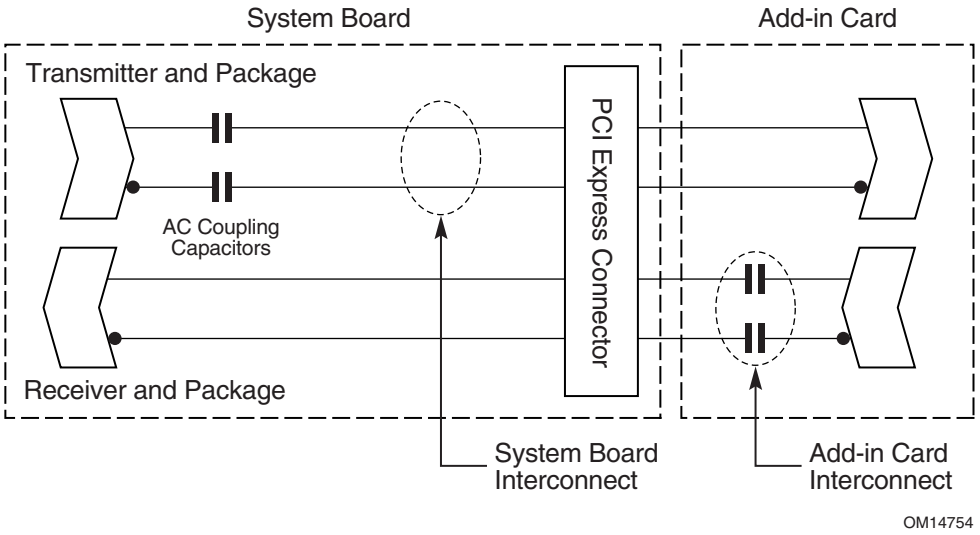



**Figure 4-4: Link Definition for Two Components**

The electrical impact of discontinuities on the Link such as via, bend, and test-points should be included in the respective components.

# 4.6. Electrical Budgets

A budget is defined for each of the following electrical parameters associated with the Link:

- AC coupling capacitors
- Insertion Loss (Voltage Transfer Function)
- Jitter
- Bit-to-bit skew
- Crosstalk
- Equalization
- Skew within a differential pair

The electrical budgets are different for each of the two Link components:

- Add-in card budget
- System board and PCI Express connector budgets

The interconnect Link budget allocations associated with the Transmitters and Receivers differ. This is to account for any electrical characteristics the AC coupling capacitors may contribute to the Link.

## 4.6.1. AC Coupling Capacitors

The PCI Express add-in card and system board shall incorporate AC coupling capacitors on the Transmitter differential pair. This is to ensure blocking of the DC path between the PCI Express add-in card and the system board. The suggested minimum 603-type (or smaller 402-type) capacitor with a value as specified in the *PCI Express Base Specification*. Any additional attenuation or jitter caused by the coupling capacitors (other than 603-type) must be accounted for as part of the budget allocation for the physical interconnect component's path on which the capacitors are mounted. The electrical budgets allocated for the AC coupling capacitors are defined in the following subsections. The allocated budget includes the electrical parasitic effects associated with the component's placement as mounted on the printed circuit board.

## 4.6.2. Insertion Loss Values (Voltage Transfer Function)

The maximum loss values in dB (decibels) are specified for the system board and the add-in card. The insertion loss values are defined as the ratio of the voltage at the ASIC package pin (Transmitter/Receiver) and the voltage at the PCI Express connector interface, terminated by 100 Ω differential termination, realized as two 50 Ω resistances. These resistances are referenced to ground at the interface (see Figure 4-5).

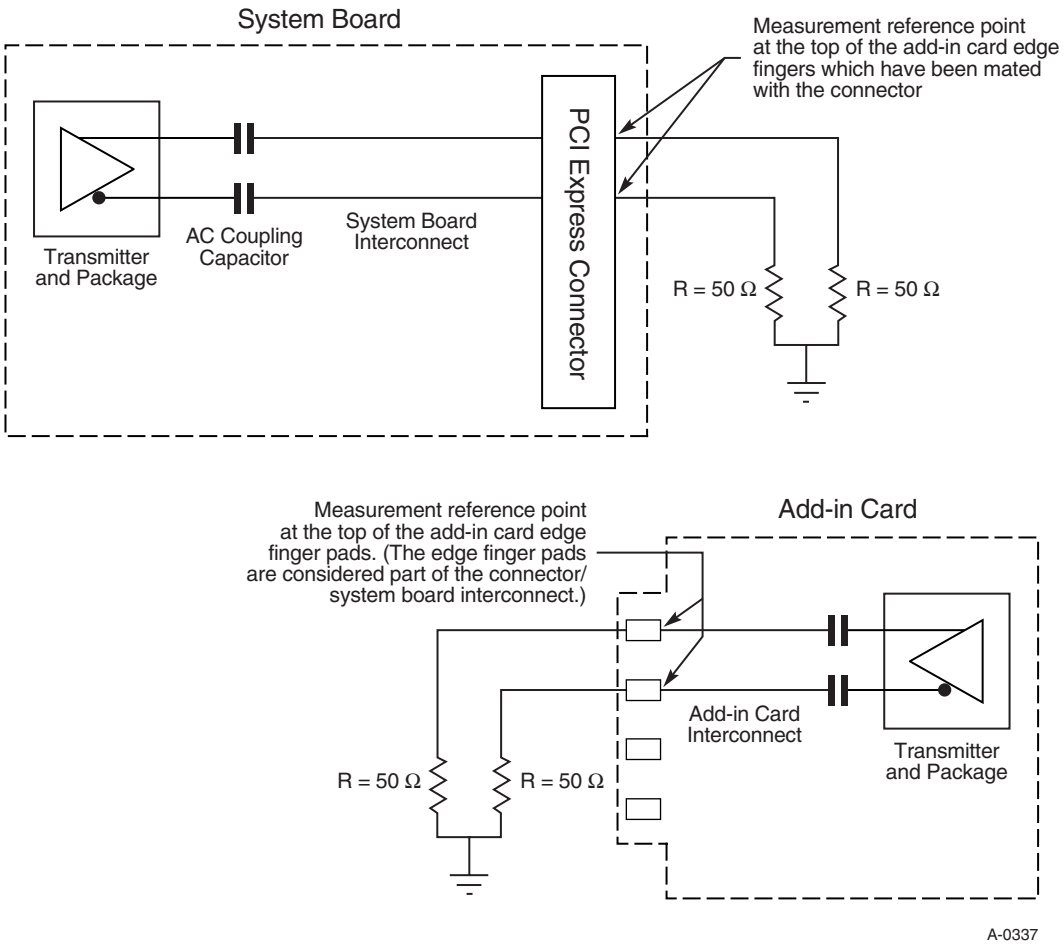



**Figure 4-5: Example Interconnect Terminated at the Connector Interface**

All PCI Express differential trace pairs are required to be referenced to the ground plane. The loss values associated with any riser card interface and adjoining connector implementation must collectively meet the system board loss budget allocations and associated eye diagrams.

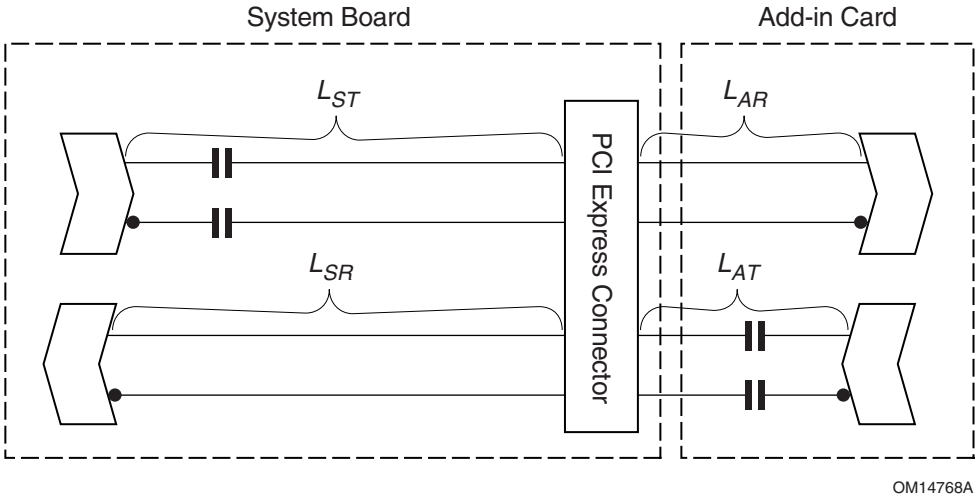



**Figure 4-6: Insertion Loss Budgets**

**Table 4-3: Allocation of Interconnect Path Insertion Loss Budget**

| Loss Parameter | Symbol | Loss Budget Value at 1.25 GHz (dB) | Loss Budget Value at 625 MHz (dB) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Loss | $L_T$ | < 13.2 – 1.25 (guard band) | < 9.2 – 1.25 (guard band) | Note 1 |
| PCI Express Add-in Card | $L_{AR}$<br>$L_{AT}$ | < 2.65<br>< 3.84 | < 1.95<br>< 2.94 | Notes 1, 2 |
| System Board and Connector | $L_{SR}$<br>$L_{ST}$ | < 8.11<br>< 9.30 | < 5.01<br>< 6.00 | Notes 1, 3 |

Notes:

1. All values are referenced to 100 Ω, realized as two 50 Ω resistances. The loss budget values include all possible crosstalk impacts (near-end and far-end) and potential mismatch of the actual interconnect with respect to the 100 Ω reference load.

   The *PCI Express Base Specification* allows an interconnect loss of 13.2 dB for 1.25 GHz (non de-emphasized) signals and 9.2 dB for 625 MHz (de-emphasized) signals. From this, a total of 1.25 dB is held in reserve as guard band to allow for any additional attenuation that might occur when the add-in card and system board are actually mated. The allocated loss budget values in the table directly correlate to the eye diagram voltages in Section 4.7. Tradeoffs in terms of attenuation, crosstalk, and mismatch can be made within the budget allocations specified.

   As a guide for design and simulation, the following derivation of the budgets may be assumed for 1.25 GHz signals: 5.2 dB is subtracted from 13.2 dB to account for near-end crosstalk and impedance mismatches. Out of this, the 1.25 dB is reserved as guard band. The following loss allocations are then assumed per differential pair: $L_{AR}$ = 1.4 dB; $L_{AT}$ = 1.8 dB; $L_{SR}$ = 6.2 dB; $L_{ST}$ = 6.6 dB. These allocation assumptions must also include any effects of far-end crosstalk. 625 MHz values may be derived in a similar manner.

2. The add-in card budget does not include the add-in card edge finger or connector. However, it does include potential AC coupling capacitor attenuation on the Transmitter (TX) interconnect on add-in card. Note that the budget allocations generally allow for a maximum of 4-inch trace lengths for differential pairs having an approximate 5-mil trace width. No specific trace geometry, however, is explicitly defined in this specification. The subscripts of the Symbol designators, T and R, represent the Transmitter and Receiver respectively.

4. The system board budget includes the PCI Express connector and assumes it is mated with the card edge finger. Refer to Section 5.3 for specifics on the standalone connector budget. The system board budget includes potential AC coupling capacitor attenuation on the Transmitter (TX) interconnect on the system board. The subscripts of the symbol designators, T and R, represent the Transmitter and Receiver respectively.

Note: The insertion loss budget distributions above are used to derive the eye diagram heights as described in Section 4.7. However, they are provided here only as a design guideline. Compliance measurements must actually be verified against the eye diagrams themselves as defined in Section 4.7.

## 4.6.3. Jitter Values

The maximum jitter values in terms of percentage of Unit Interval (UI = 400 ps for 2.5 G transfers/s) are specified for the system board and the add-in card. The jitter associated with the riser card and associated proprietary connector will be part of the system board jitter budget. The jitter values are defined with respect to 100 **Ω** differential termination, realized as two 50 **Ω** resistances. These resistances are referenced to ground at the interface (see Figure 4-5).

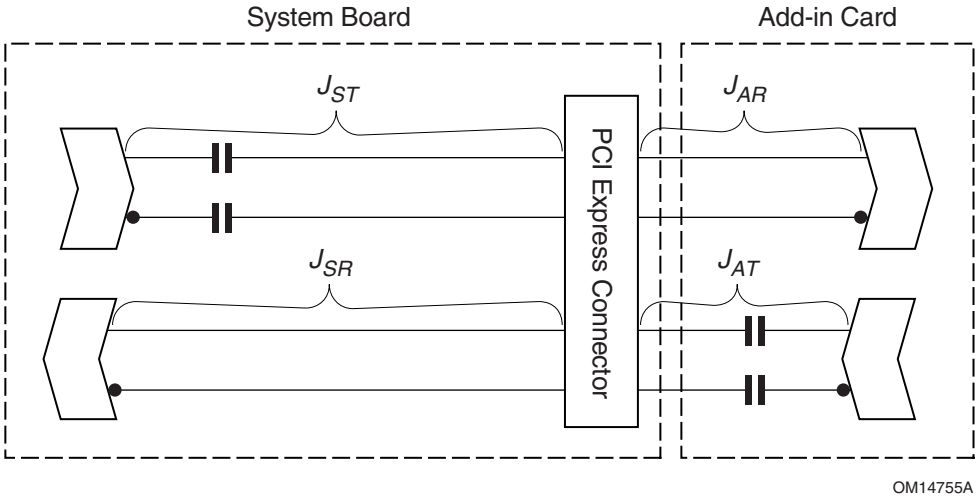



**Figure 4-7: Jitter Budget**

**Table 4-4: Allocation of Jitter Budget**

| Jitter Parameter | Symbol | Jitter Budget Value (UI) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Jitter | $J_T$ | < 0.3 | Note 1 |
| PCI Express Add-in Card | $J_{AR}$<br>$J_{AT}$ | < 0.0575<br>< 0.1075 | Notes 1, 2 |
| System Board and Connector | $J_{SR}$<br>$J_{ST}$ | < 0.1925<br>< 0.2425 | Notes 1, 3 |

Notes:

1. All values are referenced to 100 Ω, realized as two 50 Ω resistances. The jitter budget values include all possible crosstalk impacts (near-end and far-end) and potential mismatch of the actual interconnect with respect to the 100 Ω reference load.

   The *PCI Express Base Specification* allows an interconnect jitter budget of 0.3 UI. The allocated jitter budget values in the table directly correlate to the eye diagram widths in Section 4.7. Tradeoffs in terms of attenuation, crosstalk, and mismatch can be made within the budget allocations specified. No additional guard band is specifically allocated.

   As a guide for design and simulation, the following derivation of the budgets may be assumed: 0.75 UI is subtracted from 0.3 UI in order to account for near-end crosstalk and impedance mismatches. The following jitter allocations are then assumed per differential pair: $J_{AR}$ =0.035 UI; $J_{AT}$ =0.045 UI; $J_{SR}$ = 0.18 UI; $J_{ST}$ =0.19 UI. These allocation assumptions must also include any effects of far-end crosstalk.

2. All values are referenced to 100 Ω. The add-in card budget does not include the add-in card edge finger or connector. However, it does include potential jitter from the AC coupling capacitors on the Transmitter (TX) interconnect of the add-in card. The budget allocations generally allow for a maximum of 4-inch trace lengths for differential pairs having an approximate 5-mil trace width. No specific trace geometry, however, is explicitly defined in this specification. The subscripts of the symbol designators, T and R, represent the Transmitter and Receiver respectively.

3. All values are referenced to 100 Ω. The system board budget includes the PCI Express connector and assumes it is mated with the card edge finger. Refer to Section 5.3 for specifics on the standalone connector budget. The system board budget includes potential jitter from the AC coupling capacitors on the Transmitter (TX) interconnect on the system board. The subscripts of the symbol designators, T and R, represent the Transmitter and Receiver respectively.

Note: The jitter budget distributions above are used to derive the eye diagram widths as described in Chapter 4. However, they are provided here only as a design guideline. Compliance measurements must actually be verified against the eye diagrams themselves as defined in Section 4.7.

## 4.6.4. Crosstalk

All add-in card designs must properly account for any crosstalk that may exist among the various pairs of differential signals. Crosstalk may be either near-end (NEXT) or far-end (FEXT). Each component can have potential impact on a design and must be planned for accordingly.

Note that the total maximum crosstalk that a Receiver component in Electrical Idle is required to tolerate is < 65 mV as dictated by the Electrical Idle Detect Threshold in the *PCI Express Base Specification*. Additionally, crosstalk between differential pairs on the add-in card will influence and impact the data signals and any subsequent loss and jitter budgets as noted in Sections 4.6.2 and 4.6.3. Note that all eye diagrams in Section 4.7 must account for any and all crosstalk present. In

order to limit crosstalk impacts and implications, it is recommended that the add-in card limit the total amount of NEXT to a maximum of 50 mV.

All system boards interfacing with an add-in card must also properly account for crosstalk. The system board must also account for potential crosstalk that can occur on the printed circuit board as well as within the connector itself (see Section 5.3).

## 4.6.5. Lane-to-Lane Skew

The skew at any point is measured using zero crossings of differential voltage of the compliance pattern, while simultaneously transmitting on all physical Lanes. The compliance pattern is defined in the *PCI Express Base Specification*.

**Table 4-5: Allowable Interconnect Lane-to-Lane Skew**

| Skew Parameter | Symbol | Skew Values | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Interconnect Skew | $S_T$ | 1.6 ns | This does not include Transmitter output skew, $L_{TX-SKEW}$ (specified in the *PCI Express Base Specification*). The total skew at the Receiver ($S_T + L_{TX-SKEW}$ ) smaller than $L_{RX-SKEW}$ (specified in the *PCI Express Base Specification*) to minimize latency for this add-in card topology. |
| PCI Express Add-in Card | $S_A$ | 0.35 ns | Estimates about a 2-inch trace length delta on FR4 boards. |
| System Board | $S_s$ | 1.25 ns | Estimates about a 7-inch trace length delta on FR4 boards. |

## 4.6.6. Equalization

To reduce ISI, 3.5 dB (+/-0.5 dB) below the first bit de-emphasis in the Transmitter is required for the add-in card and the system board. For implementation details, refer to Chapter 4 in the *PCI Express Base Specification*.

## 4.6.7. Skew within the Differential Pair

The skew within the differential pair gives rise to a common-mode signal component, which can, in turn, increase Electromagnetic Interference (EMI). The differential pair should be routed such that the skew within differential pairs is less than 5 mils for the add-in card and 10 mils for the system board.

# 4.7. Eye Diagrams at the Add-in Card Interface

The eye diagrams defined in this section represent the compliance eye diagrams that must be met for both the add-in card and a system board interfacing with such an add-in card. The specific measurement requirements (probe test points, calibrated system board specifics, etc.) for compliance of physical components are to be specified in a separate and unique Compliance Testing document. Compliance eye diagram validation in a simulation environment is possible following the guidelines explained in Section 4.6.

## 4.7.1. Add-in Card Transmitter Path Compliance Eye-Diagram

The eye-diagram for the add-in card's Transmitter path compliance is defined in Table 4-6 and Figure 4-8.

**Table 4-6: Add-in Card Transmitter Path Compliance Eye Requirements**

| Parameter | Value | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| $Vtx_A$ | >= 514 mV | All Links are assumed active while generating this eye diagram. Transition and non-transition bits must be distinguished in order to measure compliance against the de-emphasized voltage level ($Vtx_A$_d). |
| $Vtx_A$_d | >= 360 mV | |
| $Ttx_A$ | >= 237 ps | |

Note: The values in Table 4-6 are referenced to an ideal 100 Ω differential load at the end of the interconnect path at the edge-finger boundary on the add-in card. Exact conditions required for verifying compliance while generating this eye diagram are to be given in the compliance testing document. The eye diagram is defined and centered with respect to the jitter median. The jitter median should be calculated across any 250 consecutive UIs. The maximum jitter outlier should be no greater than 118.5 ps away from the jitter median.

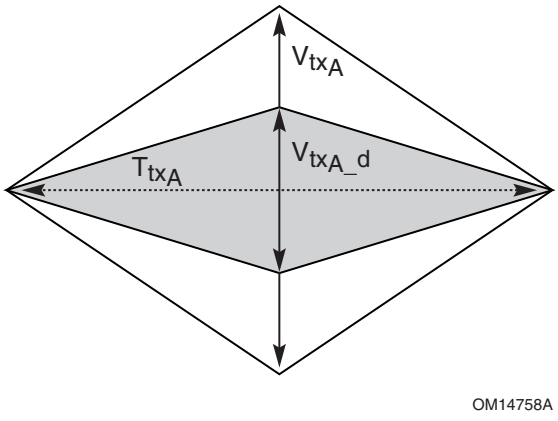



**Figure 4-8: Add-in Card Transmitter Path Compliance Eye Diagram**

## 4.7.2. Add-in Card Minimum Receiver Path Sensitivity Requirements

The minimum sensitivity values for the add-in card's Receiver path compliance are defined in Table 4-7 and a representative eye diagram is shown in Figure 4-10.

**Table 4-7: Add-in Card Minimum Receiver Path Sensitivity Requirements**

| Parameter | Value | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| $Vrx_A$ | 238 mV | All Links are assumed active when complying with these values. Transition and non-transition bits must be distinguished in order to produce the de-emphasized voltage level ($Vrx_A$_d). |
| $Vrx_A$_d | 219 mV | |
| $Trx_A$ | 183 ps | |

Note: The values in Table 4-7 are initially referenced to an ideal 100 Ω differential load. The resultant values, when provided to the Receiver interconnect path of the add-in card, allow for a demonstration of compliance of the overall add-in card Receiver path. The sensitivity requirements are defined and centered with respect to the jitter median. The jitter median should be calculated across any 250 consecutive UIs. The maximum jitter outlier should be no greater than 91.5 ps away from the jitter median. Exact conditions required for verifying compliance against these values are to be given in the compliance testing document.

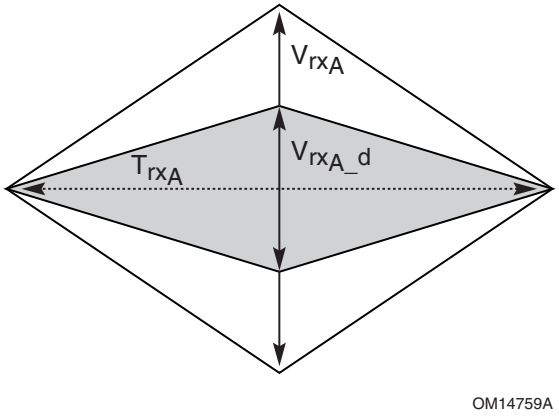



**Figure 4-9: Representative Composite Eye Diagram for Add-in Card Receiver Path Compliance**

## 4.7.3. System Board Transmitter Path Compliance Eye Diagram

The eye-diagram for the system board's Transmitter compliance is defined in Table 4-8 and in Figure 4-10.

**Table 4-8: System Board Transmitter Path Compliance Eye Requirements**

| Parameter | Value | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| $Vtx_S$ | >= 274 mV | All Links are assumed active while generating this eye diagram. Transition and non-transition bits must be distinguished in order to measure compliance against the de-emphasized voltage level ($Ttx_S$_d). |
| $Vtx_S$_d | >= 253 mV | |
| $Ttx_S$ | >= 183 ps | |

Note: The values in Table 4-8 are referenced to an ideal 100 Ω differential load at the end of the interconnect path at the isolated edge-finger boundary of an add-in card when mated with a connector. The eye diagram is defined and centered with respect to the jitter median. The jitter median should be calculated across any 250 consecutive UIs. The maximum jitter outlier should be no greater than 91.5 ps away from the jitter median.

Exact conditions required for verifying compliance while generating this eye diagram are to be given in the compliance testing document.

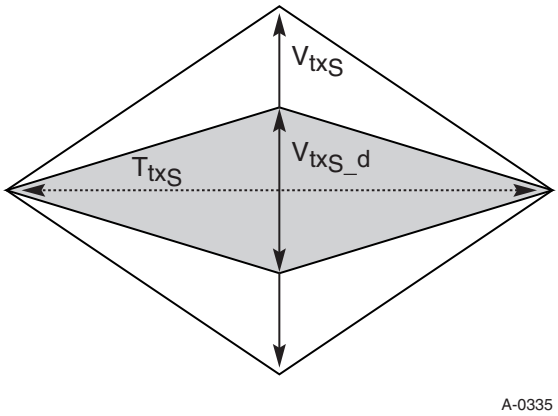



**Figure 4-10: System Board Transmitter Path Composite Compliance Eye Diagram**

## 4.7.4. System Board Minimum Receiver Path Sensitivity Requirements

The minimum sensitivity values for the system board's Receiver path compliance are defined in Table 4-9 and a representative eye diagram is shown in Figure 4-11.

**Table 4-9: System Board Minimum Receiver Path Sensitivity Requirements**

| Parameter | Value | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| $Vrx_S$ | 445 mV | All Links are assumed active when complying with these values. Transition and non-transition bits must be distinguished in order to produce the de-emphasized voltage level ($Vrx_S$_d). |
| $Vrx_S$_d | 312 mV | |
| $Trx_S$ | 237 ps | |

Note: The values in Table 4-9 are initially referenced to an ideal 100 Ω differential load. The resultant values, when provided to the Receiver interconnect path of the system board, allow for a demonstration of compliance of the overall system board Receiver path. The sensitivity requirements are defined and centered with respect to the jitter median. The jitter median should be calculated across any 250 consecutive UIs. The maximum jitter outlier should be no greater than 118.5 ps away from the jitter median. Exact conditions required for verifying compliance against these values are to be given in the compliance testing document.

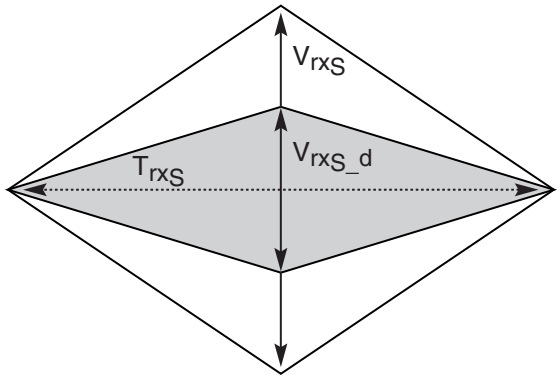



**Figure 4-11: Representative Composite Eye Diagram for System Board Receiver Path Compliance**

5

# 5. Connector Specification

A family of PCI Express vertical edge card connectors supports x1, x4, x8, and x16 Link widths to suit different bandwidth requirements. These connectors support the PCI Express signal and power requirements, as well as auxiliary signals used to facilitate the interface between system board and add-in card hardware. This chapter defines the connector mating interfaces and footprints, as well as the electrical, mechanical, and environmental requirements.

## 5.1. Connector Pinout

Table 5-1 shows the pinout definition for the x1, x4, x8, and x16 PCI Express connectors. The auxiliary pins are identified in the shaded areas.

**Table 5-1: PCI Express Connectors Pinout**

| Pin # | Side B | | Side A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Name | Description | Name | Description |
| 1 | +12V | 12 V power | PRSNT1# | Hot-Plug presence detect |
| 2 | +12V | 12 V power | +12V | 12 V power |
| 3 | RSVD | Reserved | +12V | 12 V power |
| 4 | GND | Ground | GND | Ground |
| 5 | SMCLK | SMBus (System Management Bus) clock | JTAG2 | TCK (Test Clock), clock input for JTAG interface |
| 6 | SMDAT | SMBus (System Management Bus) data | JTAG3 | TDI (Test Data Input) |
| 7 | GND | Ground | JTAG4 | TDO (Test Data Output) |
| 8 | +3.3V | 3.3 V power | JTAG5 | TMS (Test Mode Select) |
| 9 | JTAG1 | TRST# (Test Reset) resets the JTAG interface | +3.3V | 3.3 V power |
| 10 | 3.3Vaux | 3.3 V auxiliary power | +3.3V | 3.3 V power |
| 11 | WAKE# | Signal for Link reactivation | PERST# | Fundamental reset |

| Pin # | Side B | | Side A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Name** | **Description** | **Name** | **Description** |
| Mechanical key | | | | |
| 12 | RSVD | Reserved | GND | Ground |
| 13 | GND | Ground | REFCLK+ | Reference clock (differential pair) |
| 14 | PETp0 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 0 | REFCLK- | |
| 15 | PETn0 | | GND | Ground |
| 16 | GND | Ground | PERp0 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 0 |
| 17 | PRSNT2# | Hot-Plug presence detect | PERn0 | |
| 18 | GND | Ground | GND | Ground |
| End of the x1 connector | | | | |
| 19 | PETp1 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 1 | RSVD | |
| 20 | PETn1 | | GND | Ground |
| 21 | GND | Ground | PERp1 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 1 |
| 22 | GND | Ground | PERn1 | |
| 23 | PETp2 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 2 | GND | Ground |
| 24 | PETn2 | | GND | Ground |
| 25 | GND | Ground | PERp2 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 2 |
| 26 | GND | Ground | PERn(2) | |
| 27 | PETp3 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 3 | GND | Ground |
| 28 | PETn0 | | GND | Ground |
| 29 | GND | Ground | PERp3 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 3 |
| 30 | RSVD | Reserved | PERn3 | |
| 31 | PRSNT2# | Hot-Plug presence detect | GND | Ground |
| 32 | GND | Ground | RSVD | Reserved |
| End of the x4 connector | | | | |
| 33 | PETp4 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 4 | RSVD | Reserved |
| 34 | PETn4) | | GND | Ground |
| 35 | GND | Ground | PERp4 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 4 |
| 36 | GND | Ground | PERn4 | |
| 37 | PETp5 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 5 | GND | Ground |
| 38 | PETn5 | | GND | Ground |
| 39 | GND | Ground | PERp5 | Receiver differential |

| Pin # | Side B | | Side A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Name** | **Description** | **Name** | **Description** |
| 40 | GND | Ground | PERn5 | pair, Lane 5 |
| 41 | PETp6 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 6 | GND | Ground |
| 42 | PETn6 | | GND | Ground |
| 43 | GND | Ground | PERp6 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 6 |
| 44 | GND | Ground | PERn6 | |
| 45 | PETp7 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 7 | GND | Ground |
| 46 | PETn7 | | GND | Ground |
| 47 | GND | Ground | PERp7 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 7 |
| 48 | PRSNT2# | Hot-Plug presence detect | PERn7 | |
| 49 | GND | Ground | GND | Ground |
| End of the x8 connector | | | | |
| 50 | PETp8 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 8 | RSVD | Reserved |
| 51 | PETn8 | | GND | Ground |
| 52 | GND | Ground | PERp8 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 8 |
| 53 | GND | Ground | PERn8 | |
| 54 | PETp9 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 9 | GND | Ground |
| 55 | PETn9 | | GND | Ground |
| 56 | GND | Ground | PERp9 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 9 |
| 57 | GND | Ground | PERn9 | |
| 58 | PETp10 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 10 | GND | Ground |
| 59 | PETn10 | | GND | Ground |
| 60 | GND | Ground | PERp10 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 10 |
| 61 | GND | Ground | PERn10 | |
| 62 | PETp11 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 11 | GND | Ground |
| 63 | PETn11 | | GND | Ground |
| 64 | GND | Ground | PERp11 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 11 |
| 65 | GND | Ground | PERn11 | |
| 66 | PETp12 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 12 | GND | Ground |
| 67 | PETn12 | | GND | Ground |
| 68 | GND | Ground | PERp12 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 12 |
| 69 | GND | Ground | PERn12 | |

| Pin # | Side B | | Side A | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Name** | **Description** | **Name** | **Description** |
| 70 | PETp13 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 13 | GND | Ground |
| 71 | PETn13 | | GND | Ground |
| 72 | GND | Ground | PERp13 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 13 |
| 73 | GND | Ground | PERn13 | |
| 74 | PETp14 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 14 | GND | Ground |
| 75 | PETn14 | | GND | Ground |
| 76 | GND | Ground | PERp14 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 14 |
| 77 | GND | Ground | PERn14 | |
| 78 | PETp15 | Transmitter differential pair, Lane 15 | GND | Ground |
| 79 | PETn15 | | GND | Ground |
| 80 | GND | Ground | PERp15 | Receiver differential pair, Lane 15 |
| 81 | PRSNT2# | Hot-Plug presence detect | PERn15 | |
| 82 | RSVD | Reserved | GND | Ground |
| End of the x16 connector | | | | |

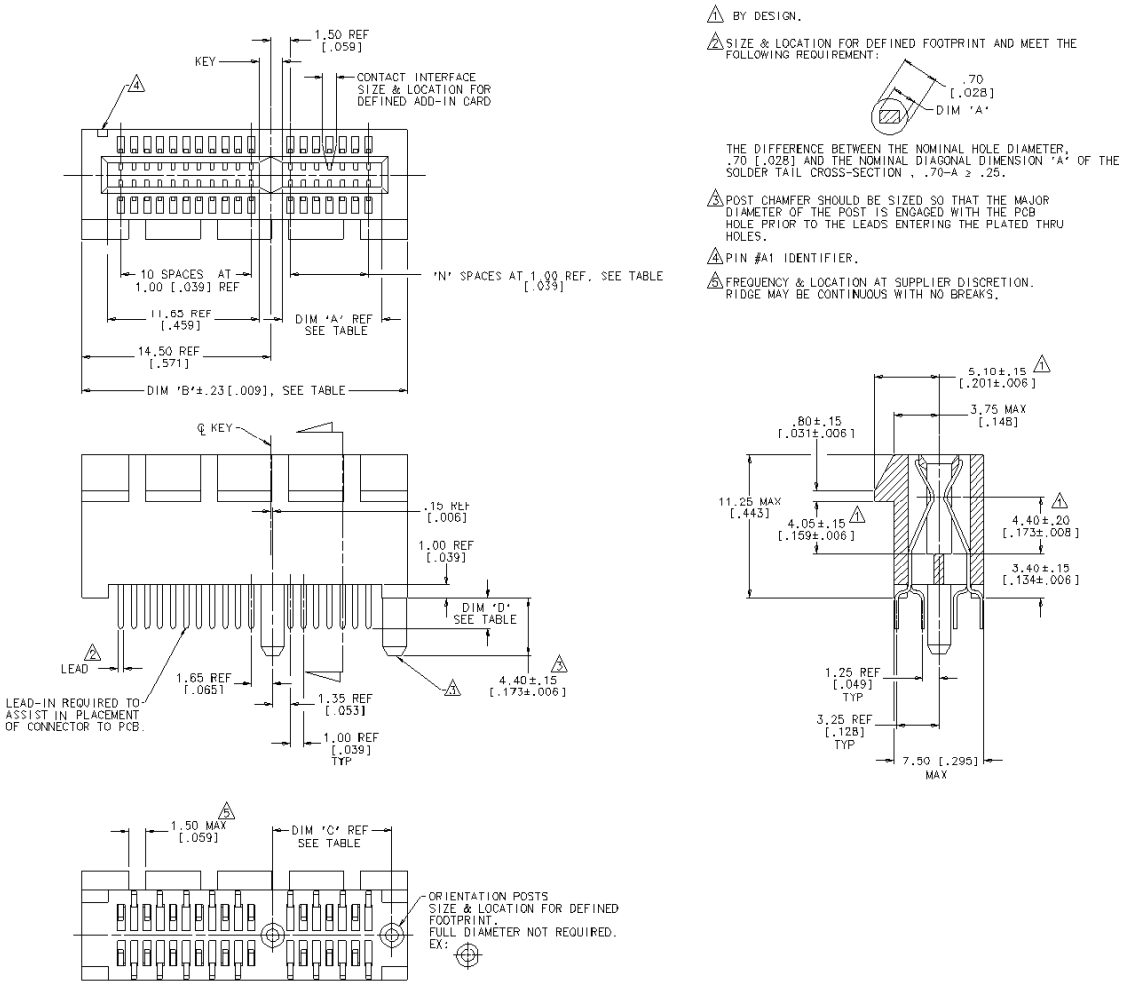
The following points should be noted:

- The pins are numbered as shown in Figure 5-2 in ascending order from the left to the right, with side A on the top of the centerline and side B on the bottom of the centerline.
- The PCI Express interface pins PETpx, PETnx, PERpx, and PERnx are named with the following convention: "PE" stands for PCI Express *high speed*, "T" for *Transmitter*, "R" for *Receiver*, "p" for *positive* (+), and "n" for *negative* (-).
- By default, PETpx and PETnx pins (the Transmitter differential pair of the connector) shall be connected to the PCI Express Transmitter differential pair on the system board, and to the PCI Express Receiver differential pair on the add-in card.
- By default, PERpx and PERnx pins (the Receiver differential pair of the connector) shall be connected to the PCI Express Receiver differential pair on the system board, and to the PCI Express Transmitter differential pair on the add-in card.
- However, the "p" and "n" connections may be reversed to simplify PCB trace routing and minimize vias if needed. All PCI-Express Receivers incorporate automatic Lane Polarity Inversion as part of the Link Initialization and Training and will correct the polarity independently on each Lane. Refer to Section 4.2.4. of the *PCI Express Base Specification*.
- If the component on the system board or add-in card does not support the optional PCI-Express Lane Reversal functions, they must connect each Transmitter and Receiver Lane to the add-in card connector lanes as shown in Table 5-1. For example, a x4 component must connect Lane 0 to 0, Lane 1 to 1, Lane 2 to 2, and Lane 3 to 3.

- If the component on the system board or add-in card supports the optional PCI Express Lane Reversal function, it may connect each Transmitter and Receiver Lane to the add-in card connector lanes as shown in Table 5-1 or it may connect the Transmitter and Receiver lanes using a reversed Lane ordering. Either Lane ordering may be used to simplify PCB trace routing and minimize vias. However, the transmitting and receiving lanes must be connected with the same Lane ordering. For example, a x4 component may connect Lane 0 to 0, Lane 1 to 1, Lane 2 to 2, and Lane 3 to 3 or it may connect Lane 0 to 3, Lane 1 to 2, Lane 2 to 1, and Lane 3 to 0.
- The connectors and the add-in cards are keyed such that smaller add-in cards can be put in larger connectors. For example, an x1 card can be inserted into the x4, x8, and x16 connectors. This is referred to as up-plugging.
- Adjacent differential pairs are separated by two ground pins to manage the connector crosstalk.
- See Chapter 2 for auxiliary signals description and implementation, except the +3.3Vaux and PRSNT1# and PRSNT2# pins. The requirements for +3.3Vaux are discussed in Chapter 4 and presence detect is discussed in Chapter 3.
- PRSNT1# and PRSNT2# pins are for card presence detect. One present detect pin at each end of a connector guarantees that at least one of the present detect pins is last-mate/first-break. More than two PRSNT2# pins in the x4, x8, and x16 PCI Express connectors are for the purpose of supporting up-plugging. See Chapter 3 for detailed discussions on presence detect.
- The sequential mating for Hot-Plug is accomplished by staggering the edge fingers on the add-in card, as shown in Section 5.2. Detailed requirements on Hot-Plug are covered in Chapter 3.
- Power pins (+3.3V, +3.3Vaux, and +12V) are defined based on the PCI Express power delivery requirements specified in Chapter 4, with the connector contact carrying capability being 1.1 A per pin. The power that goes through the connector shall not exceed the maximum power specified for a given add-in card size, as defined in Table 4-2.

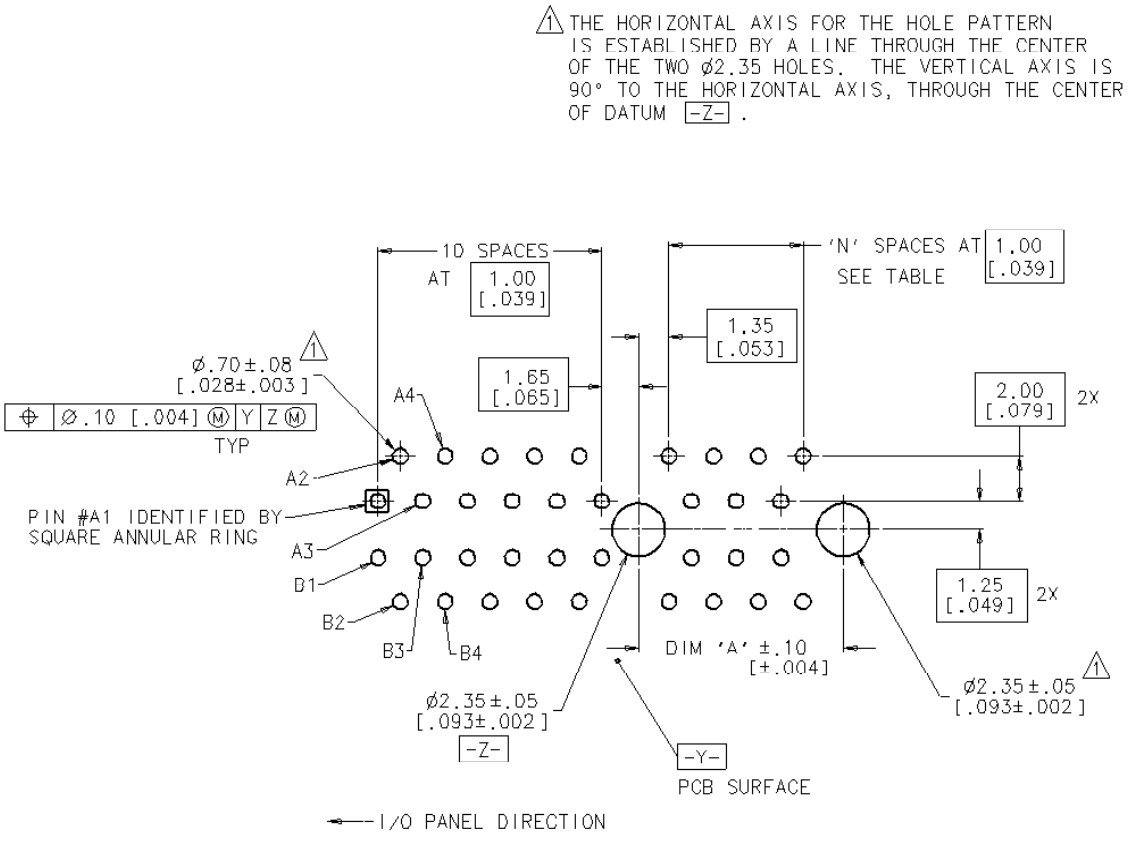
# 5.2. Connector Interface Definitions

The PCI Express connector outline, footprint, and the corresponding add-in card edge-finger dimensions are shown in Figure 5-1, Figure 5-2, and Figure 5-3.



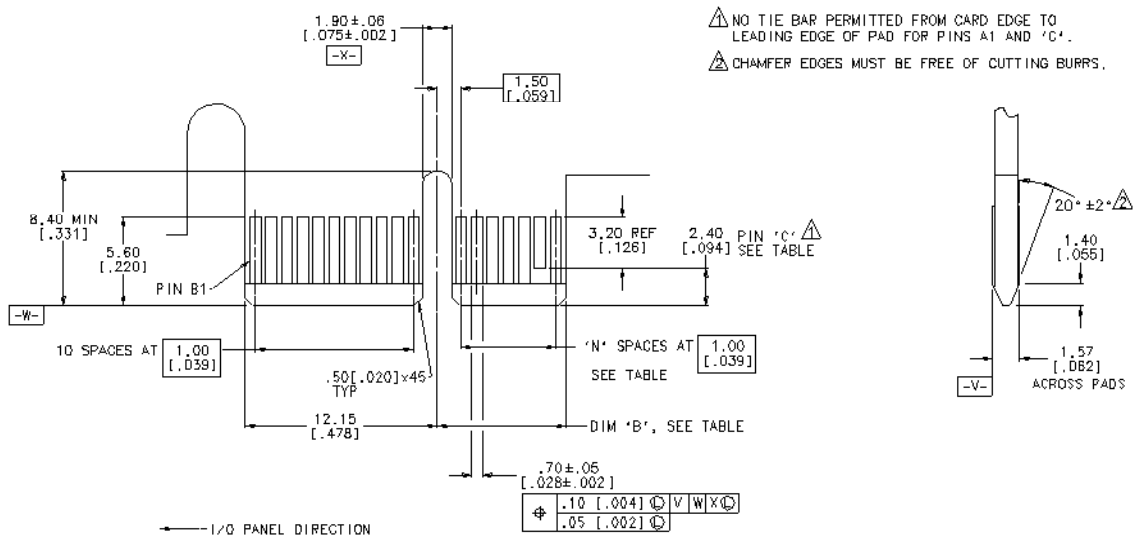

| CONNECTOR LINK WIDTH | # POS REF | N | DIM 'A' | DIM 'B' | DIM 'C' | PCB THK (REF) | DIM 'D' |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| X1 | 36 | 6 | 7.65 [.301] | 25.00 [.984] | 9.15 [.360] | 1.58 [.062] | 2.30 +.25/-.13 [.091 +.010/-.005] |
| X4 | 64 | 20 | 21.65 [.852] | 39.00 [1.535] | 23.15 [.911] | 2.36 [.093] | 3.10 +.25/-.13 [.122 +.010/-.005] |
| X8 | 98 | 37 | 38.85 [1.522] | 56.00 [2.205] | 40.15 [1.581] | | |
| X16 | 164 | 70 | 71.65 [2.821] | 89.00 [3.504] | 73.15 [2.880] | | |

**Figure 5-1: Connector Form Factor**




| CONNECTOR LINK WIDTH | # POS REF | N | DIM 'A' |
|---|---|---|---|
| X1 | 36 | 6 | 9.15 [.360] |
| X4 | 64 | 20 | 23.15 [.911] |
| X8 | 98 | 37 | 40.15 [1.581] |
| X16 | 164 | 70 | 73.15 [2.880] |

**Figure 5-2: Recommended Footprint**




TOLERANCE: .XX ±.13 [.005]

| CONNECTOR LINK WIDTH | # POS REF | N | DIM 'B' | 'C' |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| X1 | 36 | 6 | 8.15 [.321] | B17 |
| X4 | 64 | 20 | 22.15 [.872] | B17, B31 |
| X8 | 98 | 37 | 39.15 [1.541] | B17, B31, B48 |
| X16 | 164 | 70 | 72.15 [2.841] | B17, B31, B48, B81 |

**Figure 5-3: Add-in Card Edge-Finger Dimensions**

The following points should be noted:

- The connector has a 1.00 mm contact pitch.
- The contact shall be pre-loaded, similar to the PCI connector.
- The connector footprint (Figure 5-2) requires two 2.35 mm diameter location holes, working with either plastic pegs/posts or metal board locks. Metal board locks are allowed, although Figure 5-1 shows only the plastic pegs on the connector housing.
- Figure 5-3 defines only the mating interface related dimensions. Other add-in card dimensions are defined in Chapter 6.
- The PRSNT1# and PRSNT2# pins shown in Figure 5-3 are 1 mm shorter than the other fingers. Those pins are designated as A1, B17, B31, B48, and B81, where applicable. No plating tie bar is allowed underneath the PRSNT1# and PRSNT2# pins because those pins are meant to be last-mate and first-break.
- As shown in Figure 5-1, a ridge feature is defined on the top of the connector housing on one side. This feature can be used to facilitate card retention. A retention clip may be mounted on an add-in card and latched on the ridge.
- Two types of add-in cards must be "retention ready":
  - Graphics cards.
  - x1, x4, x8, or x16 I/O cards that in the judgment of the OEM or card manufacturers have sufficient weight or length that the card may need an additional retention point for stability.

  *Retention ready* means that the add-in card manufacturer must have selected (or created) a retention mechanism and made provisions on the card to facilitate the retention mechanism. The reference retention mechanism designs and related component keep-out or height restriction areas are defined in the *PCI Express Graphics Card Thermal Mechanical Design Guidelines*.

  The full-length card 321.00 mm (12.283 inches) long is considered retention ready. The mounting holes on one end of the full-length card allow the optional PCI card retainer to be installed to secure the card. See Section 6.1.
- Detailed connector contact and housing designs are up to each connector vendor, as long as the requirements of form, fit, and function are met.

# 5.3. Signal Integrity Requirements and Test Procedures

A common electrical test fixture is specified and used for evaluating connector signal integrity. The test fixture will have 6-mil wide 50-Ω single ended traces that must be uncoupled. The impedance variation of those traces shall be controlled within ±5%. Refer to the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* for detailed discussions on the test fixture.

Detailed testing procedures, such as the vector network analyzer settings, operation, and calibration are specified in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure.* This document should be used in conjunction with the standard test fixture.

For the insertion loss and return loss tests, the measurement shall include 1.2-inch long PCB traces (0.6 inches on the system board and 0.6 inches on the add-in card). Note that the edge finger pad is not counted as the add-in card PCB trace. It is considered to be part of the connector interface. The 1.2-inch PCB trace included in the connector measurement is a part of the trace length allowed on the system board. See Section 4.6 for a discussion of the electrical budget.

Either single ended measurements that are processed to extract the differential characteristics or true differential measurements are allowed. The detailed definition and description of the test fixture and the measurement procedures are provided separately in a document entitled *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure.*

An additional consideration for the connector electrical performance is the connector-to-system board and the connector-to-add-in-card launches. The connector through hole pad and anti-pad sizes, as well as trace layout on the system board shall follow the recommendations in the *PCI Express Electrical Design Guidelines.* On the add-in card, the ground and power planes underneath the PCI Express high-speed signals (edge fingers) shall be removed. Otherwise the edge fingers will have too much capacitance and greatly degrade connector performance. A more detailed discussion on the add-in card electrical design can be found in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* and the *PCI Express Electrical Design Guidelines*.

Table 5-2 lists the electrical signal integrity parameters, requirements, and test procedures.

**Table 5-2: Signal Integrity Requirements and Test Procedures**

| Parameter | Procedure | Requirements |
|---|---|---|
| Insertion Loss (IL) | EIA 364-101<br>The EIA standard must be used with the following considerations:<br>1. The step-by-step measurement procedure is outlined in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* document (see Note 1 below).<br>2. A common test fixture for connector characterization shall be used.<br>3. This is a differential insertion loss requirement. Either true differential measurements must be made or post processing of the single ended measurements must be done to extract the differential characteristics of the connector. The methodology of doing so is covered in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* document (Note 1). | 1 dB max up to 1.25 GHz; ≤ [1.6*(F-1.25)+1] dB for 1.25 GHz < F ≤ 3.75 GHz (for example, ≤5 dB at F = 3.75 GHz). |
| Return Loss (RL) | EIA 364-108<br>The EIA standard must be used with the following considerations:<br>1. The step-by-step measurement procedure is outlined in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* document (Note 1).<br>2. A common test fixture for connector characterization shall be used.<br>3. This is a differential return loss requirement. Either true differential measurements must be made or post processing of the single ended measurements must be done to extract the differential characteristics of the connector. The methodology of doing so is covered in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* document (Note 1). | ≤ -12 dB up to 1.3 GHz; ≤ -7 dB up to 2 GHz; ≤ -4 dB up to 3.75 GHz |
| Intra-pair Skew | Intra-pair skew must be achieved by design; measurement not required. | 5 ps max |

| Parameter | Procedure | Requirements |
|---|---|---|
| Crosstalk: NEXT | EIA 364-90<br>The EIA standard must be used with the following considerations:<br>1. The crosstalk requirement is with respect to all the adjacent differential pairs including the crosstalk from opposite sides of the connector, as illustrated in Figure 5-4. This is reflected in the measurement procedure.<br>2. The step-by-step measurement procedure is outlined in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* document.<br>3. A common test fixture for connector characterization shall be used.<br>4. This is a differential crosstalk requirement between a victim differential signal pair and all of its adjacent differential signal pairs. Either true differential measurements must be made or post processing of the single ended measurements must be done to extract the differential crosstalk of the connector. The methodology of doing so is covered in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* document (see Note 1 below). | -32 dB max up to 1.25 GHz; ≤ -[32-2.4*(F-1.25)] dB for 1.25 GHz < F ≤3.75 GHz (for example, ≤ -26 dB at F = 3.75 GHz) |
| Jitter | By design; measurement not required. | 10 ps max |

Notes:

1. The *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure* is available separately.
2. A network analyzer is required. Differential measurements require the use of a two port (or a four port) network analyzer to measure the connector. The differential parameters may be measured directly if the equipment supports "True" differential excitation ("True" differential excitation is the simultaneous application of a signal to one line of the pair and a 180 degree phase shifted version of the signal to the second line of the pair). If single ended measurements are made, the differential connector parameters must be derived from the single ended measurements as defined in the *PCI Express Connector High Speed Electrical Test Procedure*.
3. If differential measurements are made directly by application of differential signals, the equipment must use phase matched fixturing. The fixturing skew and measurement cabling should be verified to be <1 ps on a TDR.
4. The connector shall be targeted for a 100 Ω differential impedance.

In Figure 5-4, pairs marked as 11-9, 5-7, 15-13, and 17-19 are the adjacent pairs with respect to the victim pair 1-3.

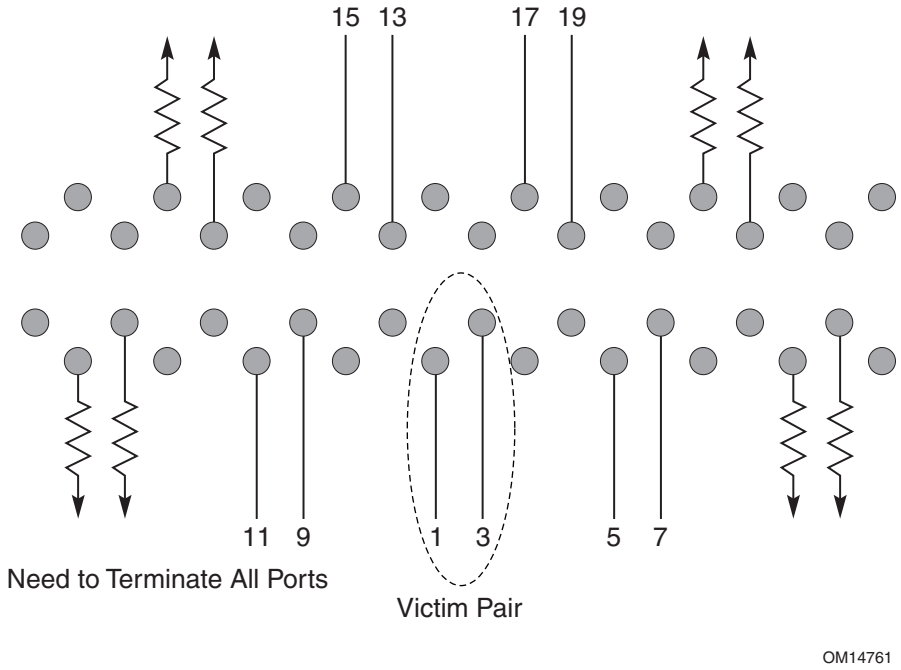



**Figure 5-4: Illustration of Adjacent Pairs**

# 5.4. Connector Environmental and Other Requirements

## 5.4.1. Environmental Requirements

Connector environmental tests shall follow EIA-364-1000.01, Environmental Test Methodology for Assessing the Performance of Electrical Connectors and Sockets Used in Business Office Applications. The test groups/sequences and durations shall be derived from the following requirements:

- Durability (mating/unmating) rating of 50 cycles
- Field temperature: 65 °C
- Field life: seven years

Since the connector defined in Section 5.2 has far more than 0.127 mm wipe length, Test Group 6 in EIA-364-1000.01 is not required. Test Group 7 in EIA-364-1000.01 is optional since the durability cycles is ≤ 50. The temperature life test duration and the mixed flowing gas test duration values are derived from EIA 364-1000.01 based on the field temperature, using simple linear interpolation. Table 5-3 lists these values.

**Table 5-3: Test Durations**

| Test | Duration/Temperature |
|---|---|
| Temperature Life | 168 hours at 105 °C |
| Temperature Life (preconditioning) | 92 hours at 105 °C |
| Mixed Flowing Gas | 10 days |

The low level contact resistance (LLCR) is required to be 30 mΩ or less, initially. Note that the contact resistance measurement points shall include the solder tail and the contact-mating interface, as illustrated in Figure 5-5. The resistance change, which is defined as the change in LLCR between the reading after stress and the initial reading, shall not exceed the value that is to be specified by each OEM to best suit their needs.

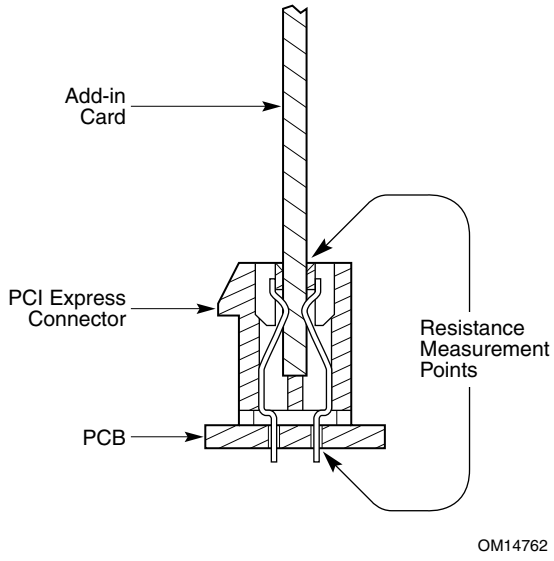



**Figure 5-5: Contact Resistance Measurement Points**

To be sure that the environmental tests measure the stability of the connector, the add-in cards used shall have edge finger tabs with a minimum plating thickness of 30 microinches of gold over 50 microinches of nickel *for the environmental test purpose only*. Furthermore, it is highly desirable that testing gives an indication of the stability of the connector when add-in cards at the lower and upper limit of the card thickness requirement are used. In any case, both the edge tab plating thickness and the card thickness shall be recorded in the environmental test report.

## 5.4.2. Mechanical Requirements

Table 5-4 lists the mechanical parameters and requirements. Note that the sample size shall follow Section 2.2.1 of EIA-364-1000.01.

**Table 5-4: Mechanical Test Procedures and Requirements**

| Test Description | Procedure | Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| Visual and dimensional inspections | EIA 364-18<br>Visual, dimensional, and functional per applicable quality inspection plan. | Meets product drawing requirements. |
| Insertion force | EIA 364-13<br>Measure the force necessary to mate the connector assemblies at a maximum rate of 12.5 mm (0.492 inches) per minute, using a steel gauge 1.70 mm thick with a tolerance + 0.00, - .01 mm. | 1.15 N maximum per contact pair. |
| Removal force | EIA 364-13<br>Measure the force necessary to unmate the connector assemblies at maximum rate of 12.5 mm (0.492 inches) per minute, using a steel gauge 1.44 mm thick with a tolerance + .01, - 0.00 mm. | 0.15 N minimum per contact pair. |

## 5.4.3. Current Rating Requirement

Table 5-5 lists the contact current rating requirement and test procedure.

**Table 5-5: End of Life Current Rating Test Sequence**

| Test Order | Test | Procedure | Condition | Requirement |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Contact current rating | EIA 364-70 method 2<br>The sample size is a minimum of three mated connectors.<br>The sample shall be soldered on a PC board with the appropriate footprint.<br>Wire the seven power pins (B1, B2, A2, A3, B8, A9, and A10) and the seven nearest ground pins (A4, B4, B7, A12, B13, A15, and B16) in a series circuit. The mated add-in card is included in this circuit. The add-in card shall have 1 oz. copper traces and its mating geometry shall conform to the applicable PCI Express drawings.<br>A thermocouple of 30 AWG or less shall be placed on the card edge finger pad (pins B2 and A9) as close to the mating contact as possible.<br>Conduct a temperature rise vs. current test. | Mated | 1.1 A per pin minimum.<br>The temperature rise above ambient shall not exceed 30 °C. The ambient condition is still air at 25 °C. |

## 5.4.4. Additional Considerations

Table 5-6 lists the additional requirements.

**Table 5-6: Additional Requirements**

| Parameter | Procedure | Requirement |
|---|---|---|
| Flammability | UL94V-1 minimum | Material certification or certificate of compliance required with each lot to satisfy the Underwriters Laboratories follow-up service requirements. |
| Lead-free soldering | | Connector must be compatible with lead free soldering process. |

This specification does not attempt to define the connector requirements that are considered application-specific. It is up to the users and their connector suppliers to determine if additional requirements shall be added to satisfy the application needs. The system level shock and vibration tests are considered application-specific because results will depend on card weight and size, chassis stiffness, and retention mechanisms, as well as the connector. Therefore those tests are not specified in the connector specification. It will be up to each system OEM to decide how the shock and vibration tests shall be done.

6

# 6. Add-in Card Form Factors and Implementation

## 6.1. Add-in Card Form Factors

To enable the reuse of existing chassis slots, the PCI Express add-in cards are similar to the PCI add-in card form factor. Two PCI Express add-in card heights are defined: the standard height of 111.15 mm (4.376 inches) max and the low profile of 68.90 mm (2.731 inches) max. Note that card height is measured from the bottom of the edge finger to the top of the card (see Figure 6-1 and Figure 6-3). Table 6-1 lists the add-in card sizes corresponding to different PCI Express Link widths.

**Table 6-1: Add-in Card Sizes**

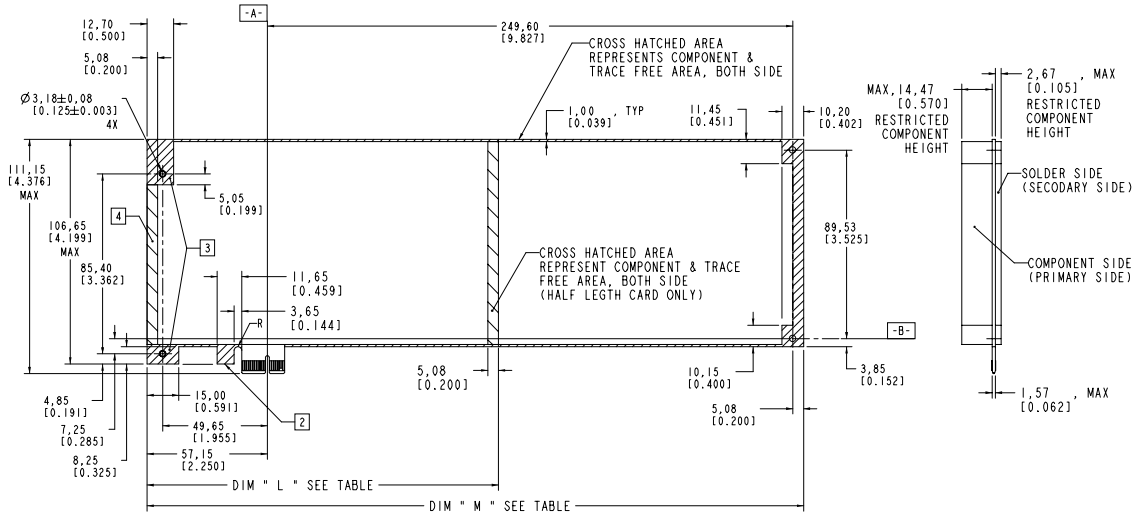
| Link Width | | Height | Length |
|---|---|---|---|
| x1 | Standard height, half length card | 111.15 mm (4.376 inches) max | 167.65 mm (6.600 inches) max |
| x1, x4, x8, x16 | Standard height, full length cards | 111.15 mm (4.376 inches) max | 312.00 mm (12.283 inches) max* |
| | Low profile cards | 68.90 mm (2.731 inches) max | 167.65 mm (6.600 inches) max |

*Not all system designs will support this length of add-in card. It is strongly recommended that standard height add-in cards be designed with a 241.30 mm (9.5 inches) maximum length.

The x1 cards allow two different maximum lengths. The x1 standard height, half length card has a maximum length of 167.65 mm (6.600 inches), with applications in the mainstream desktop and other platforms. The x1 standard height, full-length card allows a maximum length of 312.00 mm (12.283 inches). It is defined for applications that require more real estate than the half length card provides.

It should be noted that the maximum length specifies what the system design must accommodate. An add-in card can be any length up to the maximum for a particular Link width. For example, an x4 standard height card with a 177.80 mm (7.00 inches) length can be installed in a system that accommodates 241.30 mm (9.5 inches) maximum length cards, but a system that only accommodates 167.65 mm (6.6 inches) maximum length cards will not support this card.

Figure 6-1 and Figure 6-2 show the standard PCI Express card form factor without and with the I/O bracket, respectively.




NOTE:

1. TOLERANCE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ±0,13 [±0.005]

2 THIS FEATURE IS TO PREVENT THE PCI EXPRESS CARD FROM BEING PLUGGED INTO PCI CONNECTORS.

3 THE MOUNTING HOLES AND THE KEEP-OUT AROUND THEM ARE REQUIRED ONLY WHEN THE I/O BRACKET IS MOUNTED TO THE CARD DIRECTLY.

4 CROSS HATCHED AREA REPRESENT CONPONENT & TRACE FREE ARE, SOLDER SIDE (SECONDARY SIDE) ONLY.

| TABLE | |
|---|---|
| DIM " L" | DIM " M " |
| X1 (HALF LENGTH) | X1 (FULL LENGTH), X4, X8 AND X16 |
| 167,65 [6.600] MAX | 312,00 [12.283] MAX |

**Figure 6-1: Standard Height PCI Express Add-in Card without the I/O Bracket**

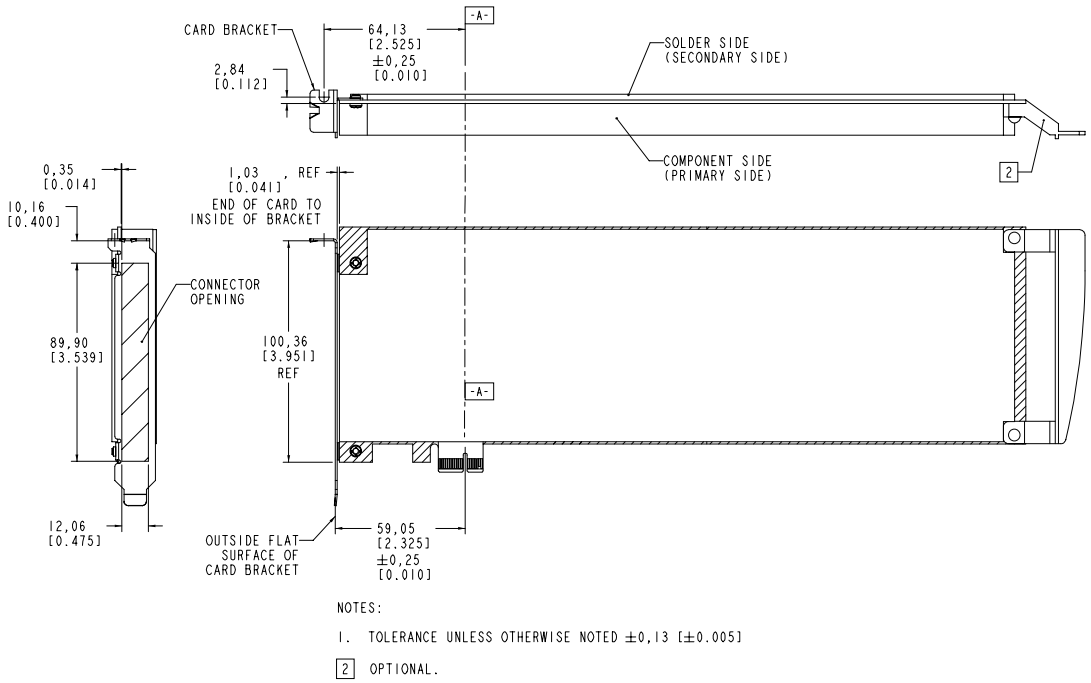



**Figure 6-2: Standard Height PCI Express Add-in Card with the I/O Bracket and Card Retainer**

The mounting holes illustrated in Figure 6-1 are required only on the right end of the full-length card (312.00 mm). Those holes are needed to install the optional PCI add-in card retainer, as illustrated in Figure 6-2.

The mounting holes and keep-out zones around them marked as note 3 in Figure 6-1 are required on those cards in which the I/O bracket is mounted to the card directly. The purpose of this keep-out is to ensure that the card cannot short out on the I/O bracket. On full-length cards, a keep-out of 5.08 mm is required to prevent card components from being damaged by the system's card guides (refer to Figure 6-1).

All graphics cards are required to be retention ready as defined in Section 5.2. This retention ready requirement may also apply to x1, x4, x8, or x16 I/O cards at each OEM, or add-in card manufacturer's discretion. See Section 5.2 for more information.

Figure 6-3 shows the standard PCI Express I/O bracket, which is the same as the PCI bracket. The mounting tabs of the bracket shown in Figure 6-3 are to be mounted onto the secondary side of the card, as illustrated in Figure 6-2. However, a user also has the option to have a bracket with the mounting tabs mounted onto the primary side of the card, as depicted in Figure 6-4.

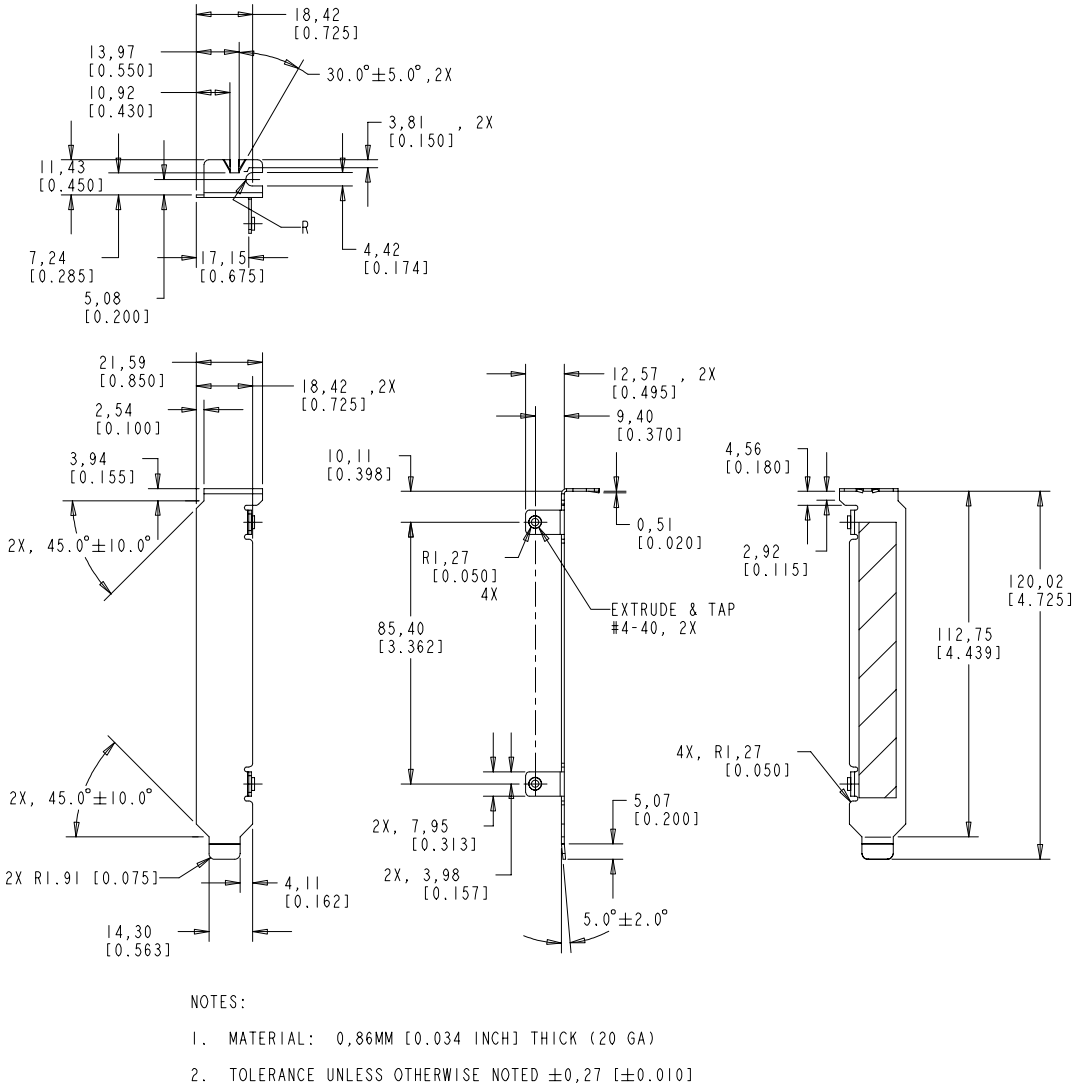



**Figure 6-3: Standard Add-in Card I/O Bracket**

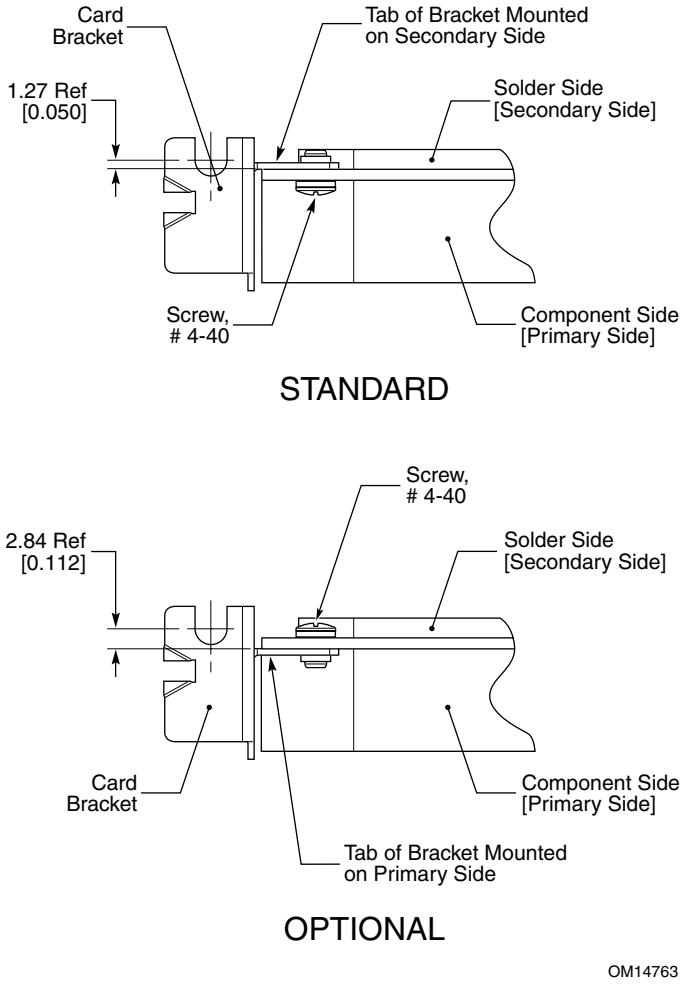



**Figure 6-4: Bracket Design with the Mounting Tabs Mounted on the Primary Side of the Add-in Card**

The PCI Express add-in card retainer is the same as the PCI card retainer, an optional feature used only with the full-length add-in cards at the maximum length of 312.00 mm (12.283 inches). Figure 6-5 shows the PCI Express add-in card retainer dimensions.

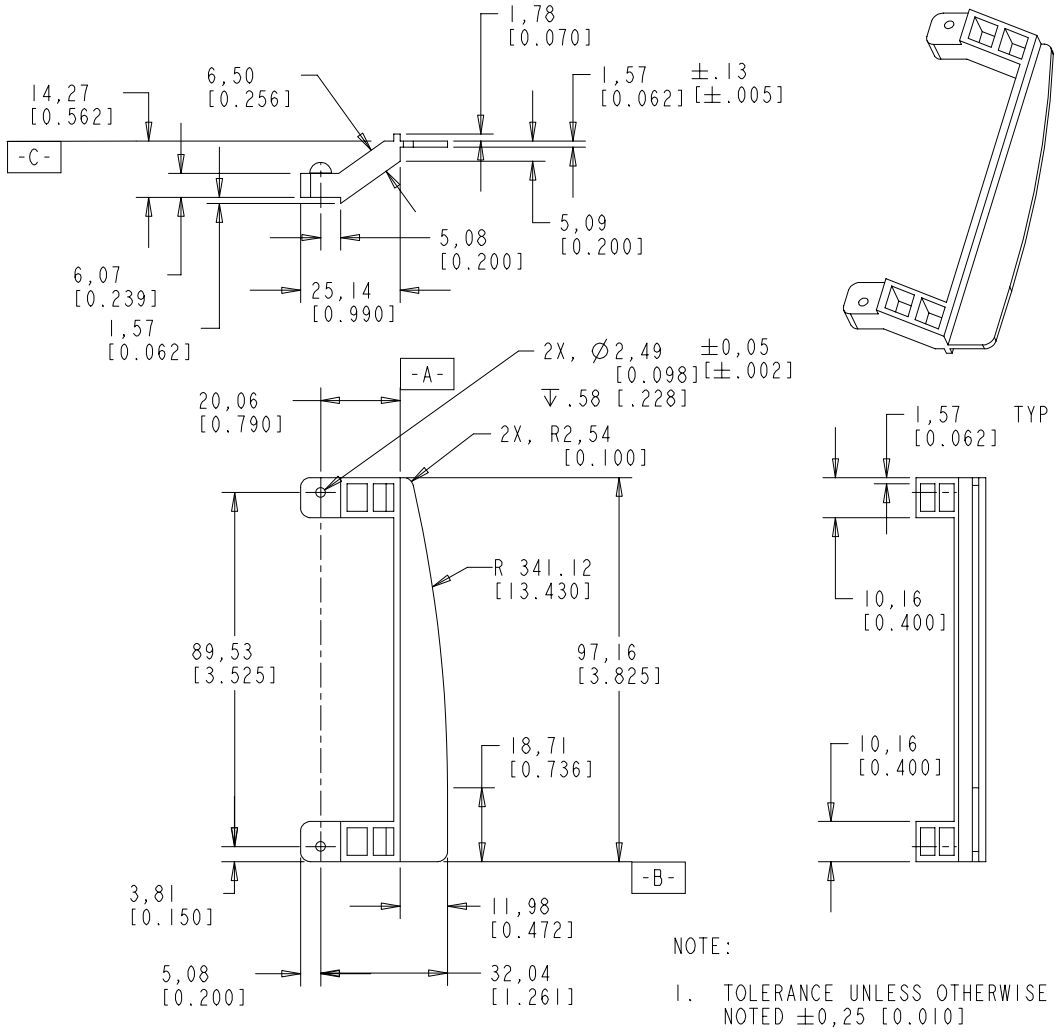



**Figure 6-5: Add-in Card Retainer**

The detailed add-in card edge finger dimensions are defined in Section 5.2, which describes the connector mating interface. The edge-finger portions of the PCI Express cards are required to have bevels or chamfers as defined in Figure 5-3.

Figure 6-6 and Figure 6-7 show, respectively, the low profile PCI Express add-in card form factor without and with the bracket, while Figure 6-8 shows the low profile add-in card I/O bracket.

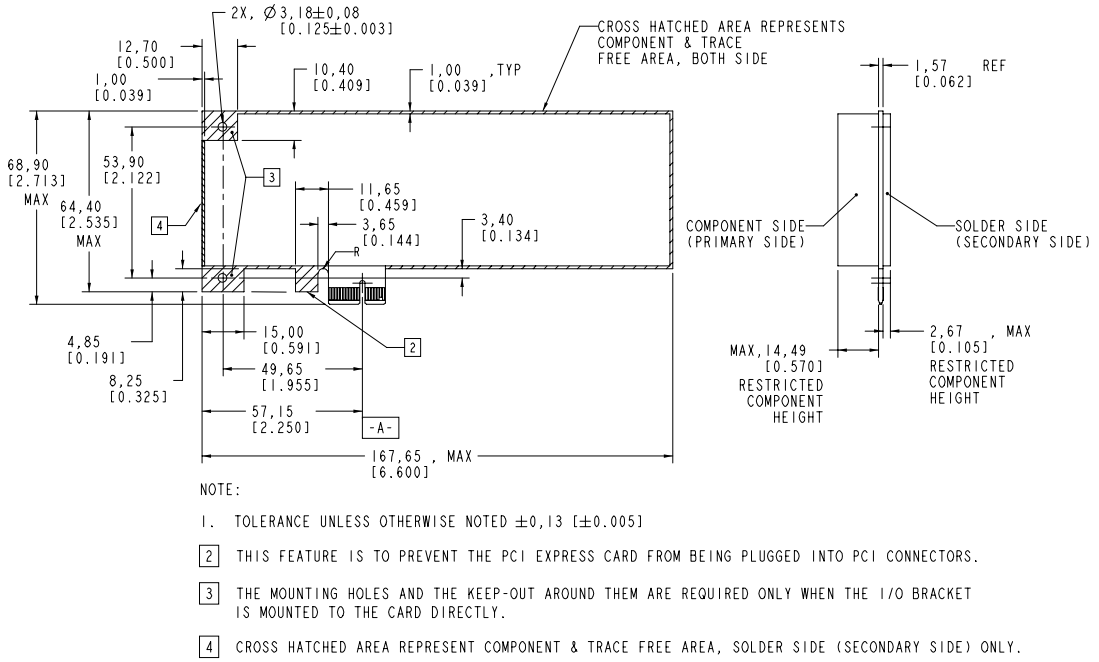



**Figure 6-6: Low Profile PCI Express Add-in Card without the I/O Bracket**

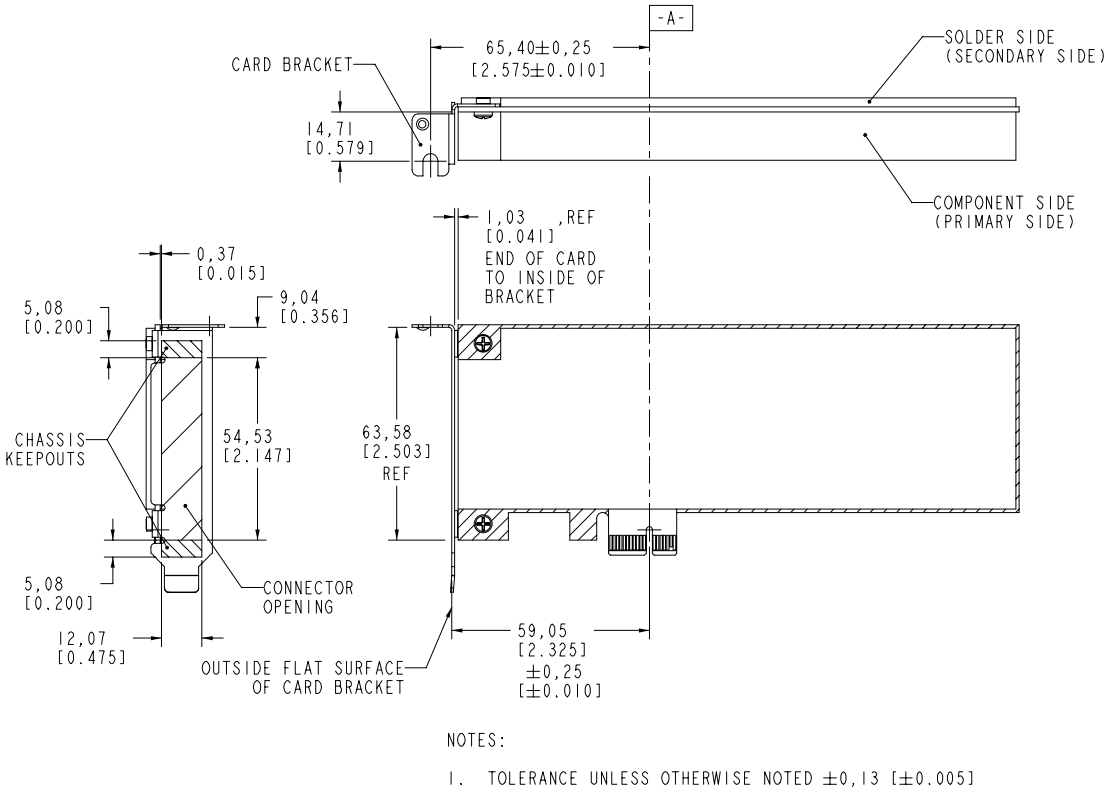
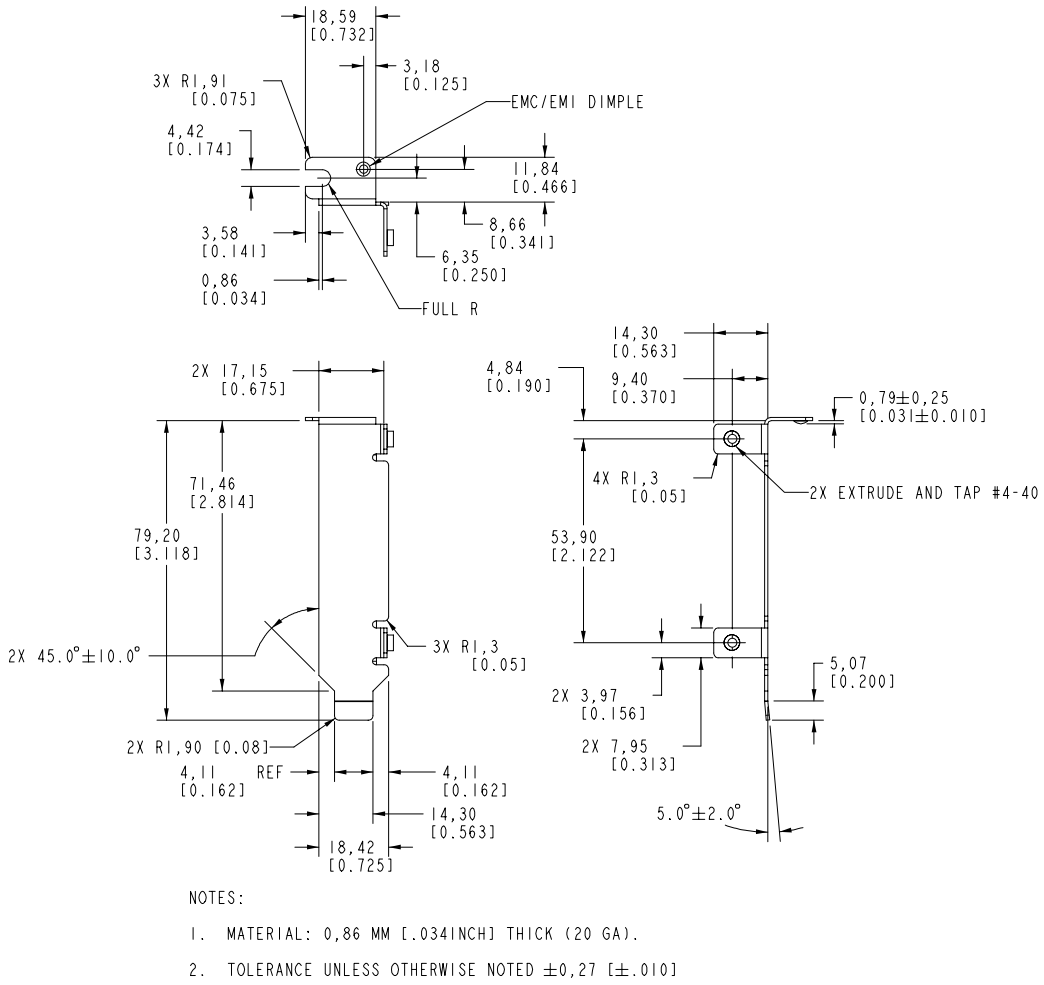



**Figure 6-7: Low Profile PCI Express Add-in Card with the I/O Bracket**




NOTES:

1. MATERIAL: 0,86 MM [.034INCH] THICK (20 GA).

2. TOLERANCE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ±0,27 [±.010]

**Figure 6-8: Low Profile I/O Bracket**

## 6.2. Connector and Add-in Card Locations

Figure 6-9 shows an example of a typical desktop system (microATX form factor). The add-in card slots are occupied by the PCI and AGP add-in card connectors.

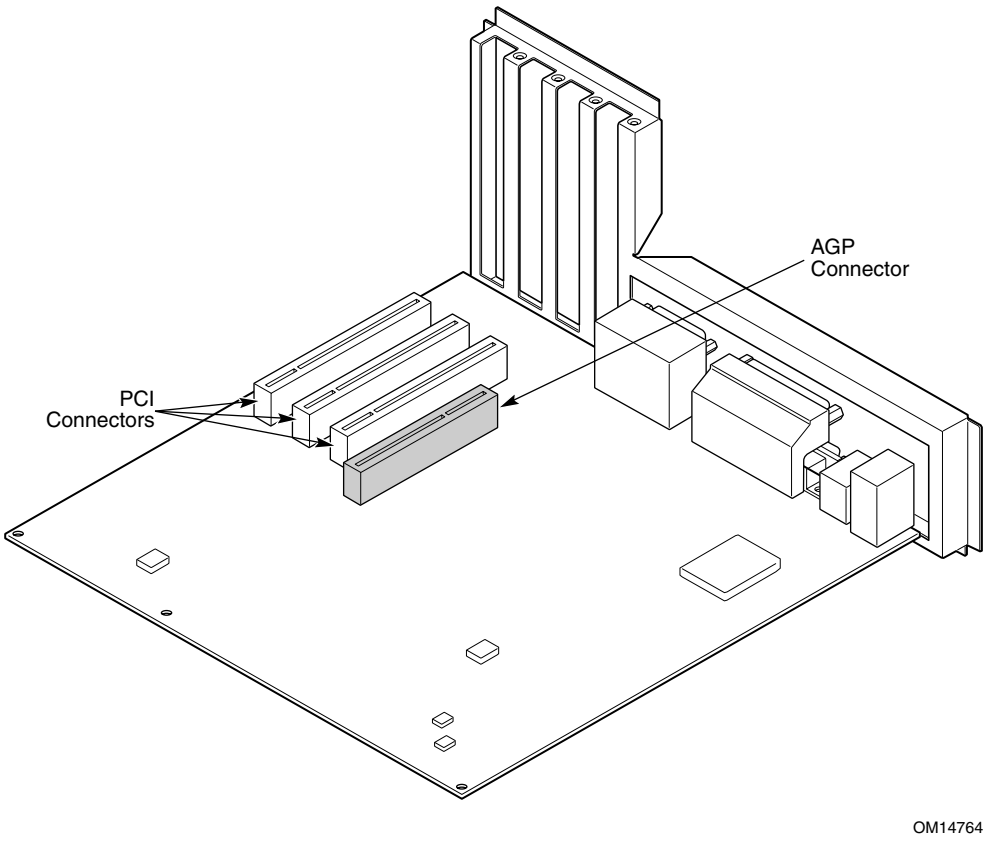



**Figure 6-9: Example of a PC System in microATX Form Factor**

The PCI Express add-in cards will use the space allocated for those add-in card slots to take advantage of the existing chassis infrastructure. This requirement dictates that the PCI Express connectors must use the slots that coincide with the locations of the present PCI and AGP slots/connectors.

Figure 6-10 illustrates the introduction of a PCI Express connector in a microATX system, co-existing with the PCI connectors. In this case, the PCI Express connector is introduced by replacing the AGP connector.

Like the PCI add-in card, the components on a PCI Express add-in card face away from the CPU, or the core area.

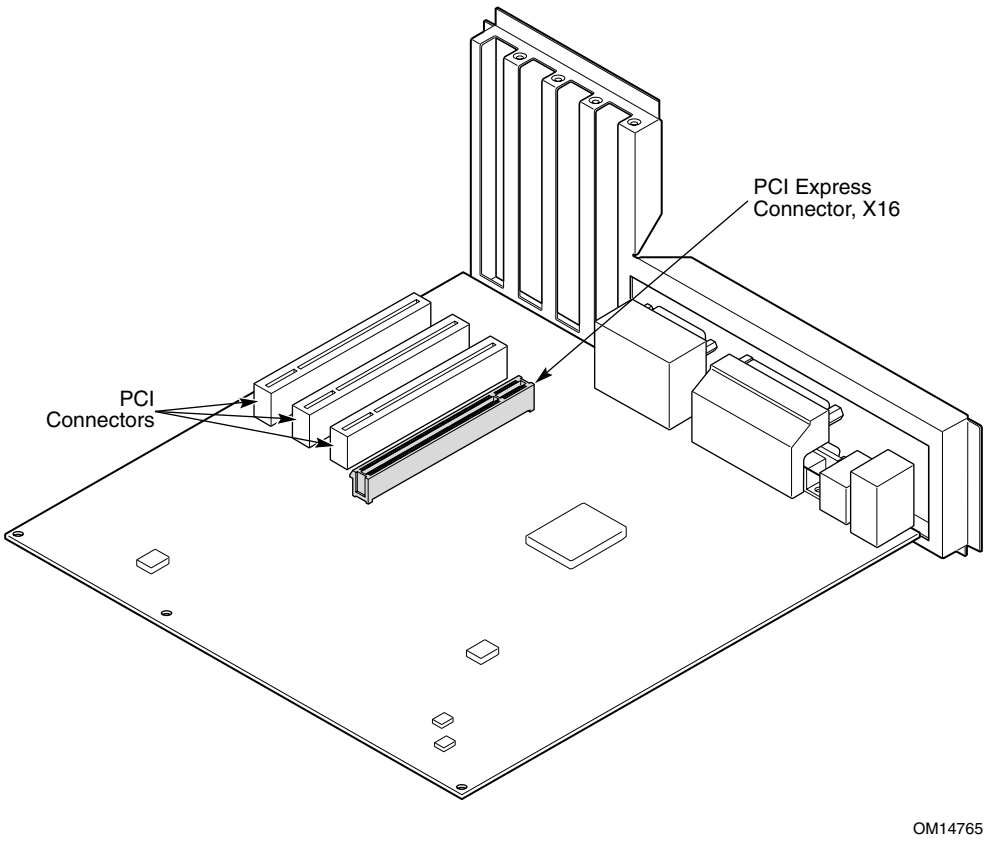



**Figure 6-10: Introduction of a PCI Express Connector in a microATX System**

Over time, more PCI Express connectors will be used on the system board. Figure 6-11 shows a situation in which a basic bandwidth PCI Express connector replaces a PCI connector (x1) and a high bandwidth (x16) PCI Express connector replaces the AGP connector.

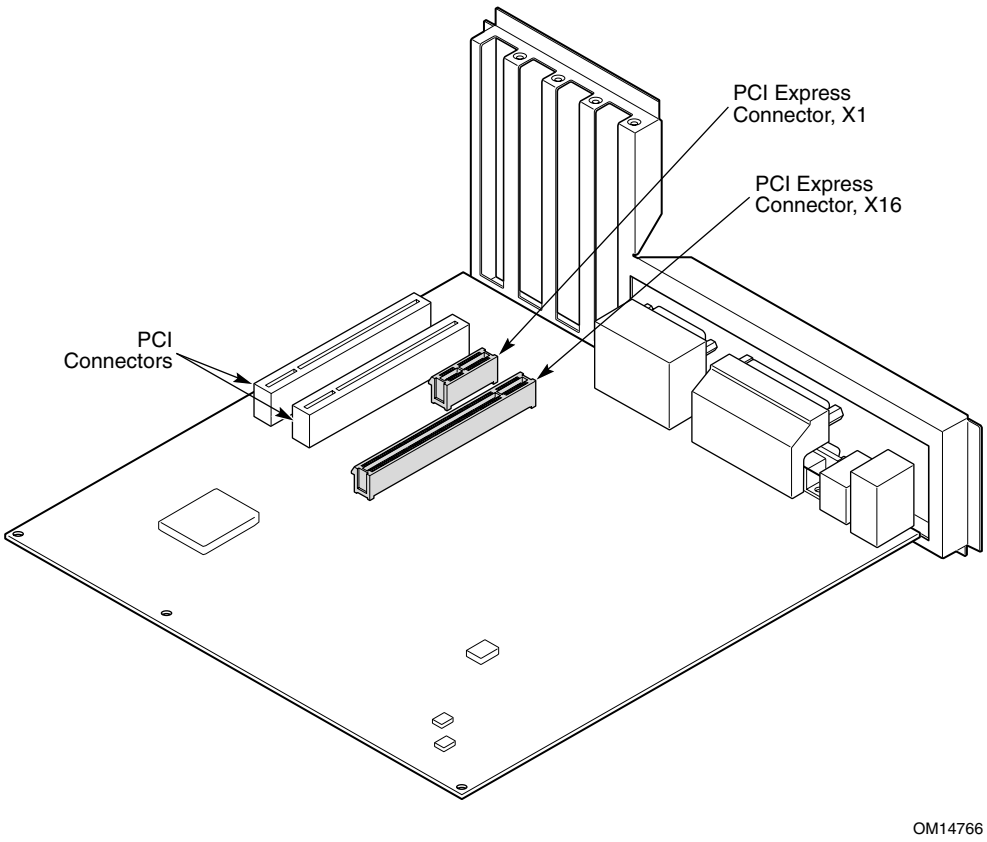



**Figure 6-11: More PCI Express Connectors are Introduced on a microATX System Board**

Figure 6-12 shows the PCI Express connector location, as well as the component height restriction zones. In this case, a x16 PCI Express connector replaces the AGP connector. When more PCI Express connectors are introduced, the height restriction zones will grow accordingly. This is depicted in Figure 6-13, where an additional x1 PCI Express connector is introduced along with the x16 connector. The 5.08 mm (0.200 inches) maximum and the 15.24 mm (0.600 inches) maximum height restriction zones are identical to the PCI requirements. But the additional, small height restriction zones of 6.35 mm (0.250 inches) max are unique to PCI Express.

There is a slight offset between PCI and PCI Express connector locations. The PCI Express connectors are located slightly further away from the rear of the chassis. The PCI Express add-in cards contain features (see Note 2 in Figure 6-1 and Figure 6-6) to prevent them from being mistakenly inserted into a PCI slot. Such features require the additional height restriction zones of 6.35 mm (0.250 inches) maximum.

The card retention clip may require additional height restrictions. Such restrictions depend on the retention clip design and location, which may vary from user to user. Thus, they are not specified here as a requirement. However, in the design guideline, a reference retention clip design and implementation is given, together with the keep-out and height restriction zones.

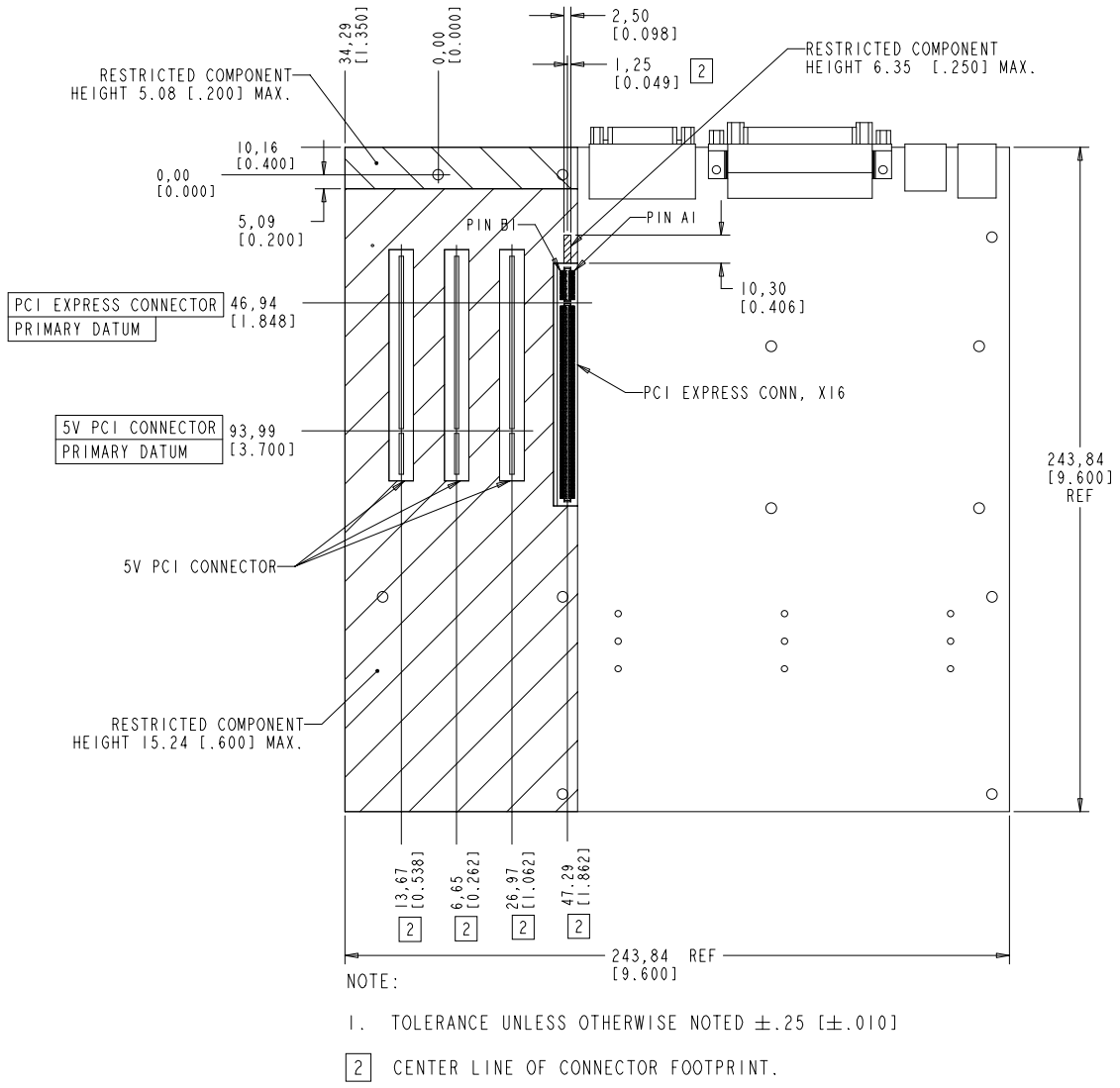



**Figure 6-12: PCI Express Connector Location in a microATX System with One PCI Express Connector**

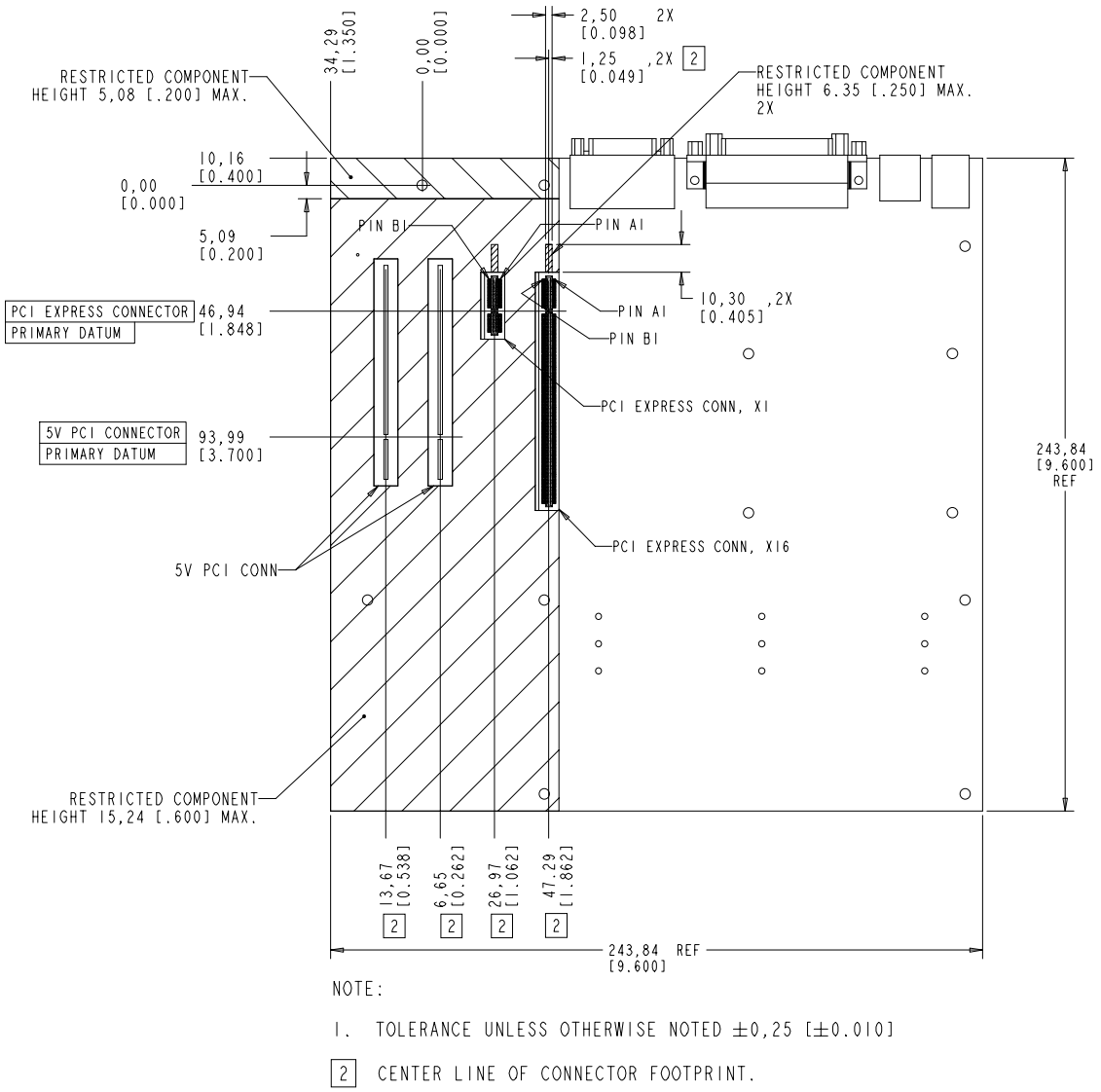
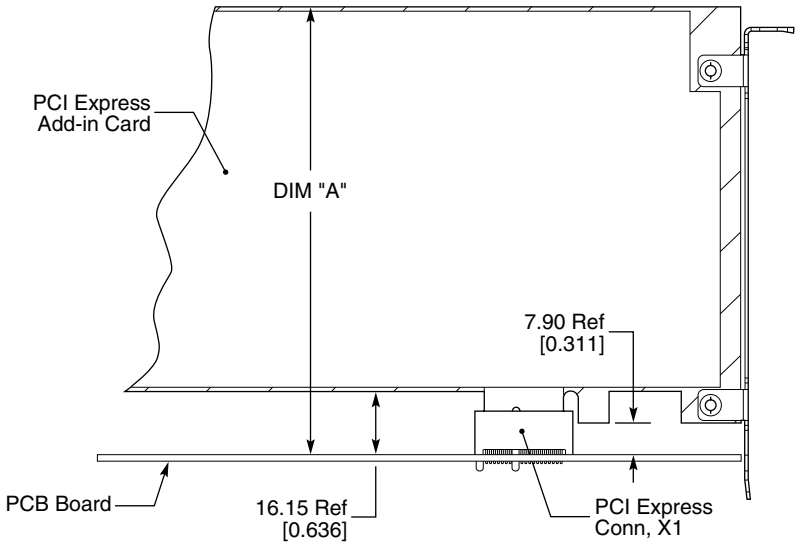



**Figure 6-13: PCI Express Connector Location in a microATX System with Two PCI Express Connectors**

Figure 6-14 shows the card height with respect to the top surface of the system board when assembled into a connector.




| DIM "A" | |
|---|---|
| STANDARD HEIGHT | 114.55 [4.510] MAX. |
| LOW PROFILE | 72.30 [2.846] MAX. |

OM14767

**Figure 6-14: Card Assembled in Connector**

# 6.3. Card Interoperability

PCI Express cards and slots will exist with a variety of Link widths. The interoperability of cards and slots is summarized in Table 6-2.

**Table 6-2: Card Interoperability**

| Slot / Card | x1 | x4 | x8 | x16 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x1 | Required | Required | Required | Required |
| x4 | No | Required | Allowed | Allowed |
| x8 | No | No | Required | Allowed |
| x16 | No | No | No | Required |

Note that the shaded area above the diagonal of Table 6-2 represents up-plugging, while the area below the diagonal represents down-plugging. The following points should be noted:

- Down-plugging, i.e., plugging a larger Link card into a smaller Link connector, is not allowed and is physically prevented.
- Up-plugging, i.e., plugging a smaller Link card into a larger Link connector, is fully allowed.
- Down-shifting, which is defined as plugging a PCI Express card into a connector that is not fully routed for all of the PCI Express lanes, in general is not allowed. The exception is the x8 connector which the system designer may choose to route only the first four PCI Express lanes. A x8 card functions as a x4 card in this scenario.

# Acknowledgements

The following persons were instrumental in the development of the PCI Express Card Electromechanical Specification:[1]

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[1] Company affiliation listed is at the time of specification contributions.